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Carlos gets life sentence



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The best movies of the year



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To a soulful year

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German sent by Hizbullah nabbed last month

By MARGOT DUKOVITCH
A German citizen sent by Hizbullah to carry out a suicide attack here was arrested by Israel Police and General Security Service officials on his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport on November 28. Details of the arrest of Stefan

Josef Smirak, a convert to Islam, were released by police and GSS officials yesterday. According to security officials, Smirak, 26, was recruited by Hizbullah during a visit to Lebanon between August and November this year. During that period he was sent

to a training camp in the Bekaa Valley, where he was taught to use light weapons and operate explosive devices. Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin said that during the investigation Smirak said he was provided with video cameras and electronic communication devices

and sent to Israel to collect information and to film densely populated areas in Tel Aviv and Haifa in order to target a site for the attack. His handlers in Lebanon also demanded that he change his passport in order to erase any traces of his Lebanese visit before traveling to

Israel. Menuhin said police also found a videotape in Smirak's possession that showed footage he filmed. Once he completed the fact-finding mission he was ordered to fly to Turkey and contact his handlers there to finalize plans before returning to Israel to carry out the attack.

Further details are banned from publication, police said. He will be brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court this morning, where police will seek his remand until the end of legal proceedings against him. This is the second time that Hizbullah has attempted to send an

agent into Israel to carry out a terrorist attack. In May 1996, police and the GSS arrested a Lebanese citizen carrying a forged British passport in the Lawrence Hotel in Jerusalem. The man was seriously injured when the bomb he was preparing exploded in his hotel room.

AGENDA

Arafat's palace

North of Hebron, near the former Civil Administration building, a new palace is going to be built, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is building another house for his wife, Suha, in the City of our Fathers. Right near the structure that for 30 years served as the interrogation room of the General Security Service, another home for the rais will rise, to the tune of several million dollars. The over-10-dunam plot was chosen carefully. It stands near the helipad once used by IDF generals. It overlooks the pastoral view of the Judean Hills, with the city of Hebron spread out below it. The planning of the home is finished; a model already stands in the office of Hebron Mayor Musafa Naishe.

Happy holidays in the territories

Near the nearly-dead wholesale market in Hebron, the PA has paved a boulevard with red stones, like in Switzerland. But that's where the development ends. In the middle of the city, Shuhada Street still carries no Palestinian traffic. Tension there is high. This living together in the same city is not doing much for either side.

But the worst scene is the garbage dump on the outskirts of Kiryat Arba, used by both Jews and Palestinians. Dozens of Arab children can be seen there, going through the garbage, looking for a piece of bread, a sliver of cheese, or a yoghurt thrown out by a Jewish child. It's happening half an hour from Jerusalem and only two minutes from Arafat's planned palace. A different world.

Now, in Hebron, there isn't that much tension between Fatah and Hamas, as there is elsewhere. In fact, the city's extended Arab families - who are affiliated all over the political map, from Islamic Jihad to those who collaborated with the GSS - have succeeded in maintaining fraternal peace and avoiding bloodshed.

But in their relations with Jews, it's a different story. Trying to educate toward peace under these conditions is a dream. The poverty only increases the frustration. And the frustration increases Hamas's appeal.

This year, the holidays of the three religions coincide. Today is Christmas and the second day of Hanukka; next week, even before the New Year arrives, Ramadan begins. But forget about peace on Earth, and goodwill towards men. This confluence only increases the friction.

See AGENDA, Page 8



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat (second from right), accompanied by aides and bodyguards, strolls yesterday on the roof of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. (AP)

Bethlehem has merrier Christmas

By HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies
Festive colored lights and banners replaced Palestinian flags and giant pictures of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Bethlehem, as the town of Jesus's birth marked Christmas for the third time under Palestinian rule. The change in tone apparently came in response to complaints from Christians that for the past two years, Christmas had been more of a national Palestinian event than a religious holiday. Earlier in the day, the traditional procession by Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah from the

Patriarchate in Jerusalem to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was delayed for about an hour, because Israeli police had found a suspicious object at Rachel's Tomb at the entrance to the town. The site, which marks the border of the Palestinian Authority, was later the point at which the Israeli guards accompanying the cleric were replaced by Palestinian policemen. The patriarch was met there by the mayors of Bethlehem, Beit Sahur, and Beit Jalla, who accompanied him into the town. See CHRISTMAS, Page 17

Source in Netanyahu's office:

Security memo must be changed

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

The memorandum of understanding drafted and initiated by Israeli and Palestinian security experts, in association with Central Intelligence Agency representatives, will have to be revised, a source in the prime minister's bureau said yesterday. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has deemed the memorandum unacceptable and will not sign it. "We're talking only about a draft copy at the moment," Netanyahu told reporters yesterday. "The document has yet to be approved. Our instructions to our representatives were that they should go and listen to the other side and tell them of our demands that they fulfill their commitments. The security document at the moment is still only one of principles and is not a detailed plan." The source said the plan "has many shortcomings and inadequa-

ties. Drafts often are defective. It will have to be revised before it can be resubmitted to the Palestinian Authority." He added that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sees eye to eye with Netanyahu on this matter. He denied that Netanyahu cast aspersions on the senior IDF officers. Drafts often are defective. It will have to be revised before it can be resubmitted to the Palestinian Authority." He added that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sees eye to eye with Netanyahu on this matter. He denied that Netanyahu cast aspersions on the senior IDF officers.

IDF should be consulted on security pacts, Page 2

cers involved in preparing the document in question or on OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, who headed the IDF team. Nor did he accept the contention that Yanai, who accompanied Netanyahu to Paris last week, was put into an embarrassing position vis a vis US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He said Yanai had explained Israel's security needs to Albright, but had

not presented maps. The opposition is claiming Yanai had drawn up a final map and security program for cooperation with the Palestinians in the fight against terror, but that the prime minister is now distancing himself from it. The IDF issued a statement yesterday expressing its confidence in Yanai, saying, "Anyone who makes personal criticisms of OC Planning Branch or his task is mistaken." Netanyahu was quoted by the Ilim news agency as having said the work on the security memorandum has not been completed, because it has not yet been referred to the chief of staff, the judiciary, and the defense establishment for approval. Emerging from a session with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Netanyahu said, "Only after it clears those quarters will it be submitted to the political echelon for final approval." See MEMO, Page 2

Netanyahu, Yisrael Ba'aliya reach temporary budget compromise

BUDGET '98
By DAVID HARRIS

The party's key demands are: a rental aid update for single-parent families and older people; a general increase in state mortgages; and a special university program for immigrants. The main bone of contention for the party is that state mortgages have not been updated for five years, during which time their

value has been eroded by some 50 percent. While the Treasury has offered to reduce that gap next year by 12.5%, or an estimated NIS 600 million, Yisrael Ba'aliya head Natan Sharansky is demanding considerably more. Despite this development and other coalition demands, principally from the Geshet Party, Netanyahu was confident yesterday that the budget will be passed. "There's no need to get so excited," Netanyahu said. "In previous Knesset years the government has lost more than 50 votes but still succeeded in passing the budget." The Treasury yesterday denied reports that it has to find a NIS 1 billion cut to meet its budget deficit target of 2.4% of the gross domestic product. See BUDGET, Page 17

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Hospitals strike to protest changes in health system

By JUDY SIEGEL
The public hospitals are to begin an open-ended strike and operate on a reduced Shabbat schedule from 7 a.m. today to protest against the planned changes in the National Health Insurance system. In addition, the community health fund clinics will handle only emergencies until 10 a.m. today and then

return to a normal schedule. In the hospitals, only vital departments such as neonatal, dialysis, and obstetrics will function normally. Meanwhile, in a last-ditch attempt to prevent the Knesset from making major changes in the National Health Insurance law, directors of all the country's public hospitals and senior health system administrators will this morning demonstrate in a "protest encampment" outside the Knesset.

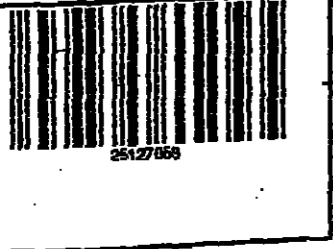
Health Minister Yehoshua Matza plans to attend the protest as well. The proposed changes, approved by the Knesset Finance Committee as part of the Treasury-sponsored arrangements bill, would allow each health fund to set its own basket of services, transfer responsibility for the tipat halav family health centers to

Health Policy Research Program at Jerusalem's Brookdale Institute, said yesterday that although the finance committee stated the elderly, poor and chronically ill would be exempt from the extra health fund fees, no government subsidy has been offered to induce the insurers to keep such members, who are expensive to treat. Without this, said Rosen, the insurers will do all they can to get such groups to leave; one of the great benefits of the National Health Insurance Law was that it provided incentives to the insurers to attract the poor, elderly and chronically ill, for whom they get an enlarged share of health taxes. Previously, Rosen said, lower-income people paid health funds minimal dues, and the insurers didn't want them, but Brookdale studies have shown the three-year-old insurance law actually sought to reach out to these "undesirables." Rosen added that changing arrangements for long-term geri-

atric nursing would leave the low-income sector without a realistic chance for such care, as they would not be able to afford private insurance for this purpose. This aspect of the proposed changes has been totally neglected until now, and no one has provided any answers. Rosen urged separating at least this issue from the arrangements bill so serious consideration can be invested during the coming months without doing major harm. Health Ministry director-general Gabi Barabash expressed hope that MKs will vote against the proposals in the plenum. He noted that completely transferring responsibility for preventive health services to the health funds would be disastrous. "Today, those health funds that provide preventive care instead of government-supervised tipat halav family health centers have only a 60% rate of full infant vaccinations, compared to over 90% in tipat halav centers," Barabash said.

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NEWS

in brief

Eitan: Pullback could bring down government

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan warned yesterday that the government would fall if any settlements were jeopardized by a further West Bank withdrawal.

Speaking during a visit to the Alon Moreh, Itamar, Har Bracha and Yitzhar settlements, Eitan said:

"This government has enough power to prevent settlements from becoming isolated or endangered. Decisions that threaten a settlement's existence or its dismantling will bring about the collapse of the government."

He also pledged to support the settlers' outcry against pullback plans, said Ahuva Shilo, spokeswoman for the Samaria Regional Council. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Etzion barred from Jerusalem's Old City again

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court released a group of Hai Vekayam activists last night after jailing them for illegally attempting to hold Hanukkah prayers and to light candles on the Temple Mount. The movement's leader, Yehuda Etzion, was barred from entering Jerusalem's Old City. But Etzion vowed he would struggle through the courts and by other means to win full Jewish prayer rights on the Temple Mount. "The police wanted to keep me under arrest until the end of the process," Etzion said, but the judge didn't agree "and said that I am free to go until the police decide in five days whether they will request my arrest." *Elli Wohlgeleitner and Itim*

Jordan lawmaker defends Knesset visit

Muslim fundamentalist lawmaker Mohammed Ra'fat said in Amman he does not regret his visit to the Knesset last Thursday. "I will repeat this visit twice, thrice and four times," Ra'fat told the daily *Al-Rai* yesterday, adding that he did it for the sake of gold and that on his next visit, he would call on all Israelis to convert to Islam.

Tichon discussed the peace process yesterday with Jordanian journalists in his office. He told them his own secretary was widowed in the Mahane Yehuda suicide bombings last July. Uraib A-Rantawi, from the influential *Dustur* daily, said the meeting was "tense." *Liat Collins and news agencies*

Driving instructors to block the roads

Some 4,000 driving instructors plan to block traffic with their vehicles today from noon until 2 p.m., their union announced yesterday. The protest is to demonstrate solidarity with driving examiners, who went on strike yesterday to protest plans for privatization. The examiners said they plan to continue their strike today. More than 4,000 road tests and hundreds of driving theory tests have been canceled due to the strike. *Itim*

Testimony ends in Deri trial

The last defense witnesses concluded their testimony yesterday in the 40-month-long fraud trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri in the Jerusalem District Court. During the testimony stage of the trial the court met 350 times, hearing 116 witnesses for the prosecution and some 30 for the defense. So far the transcript of the trial is 40,000 pages long. The next stage of the trial, the summations, is to begin in April 1998. *Itim*

IDF kills Amal gunman

At least one gunman from the Amal Shi'ite movement was killed by IDF shellfire during exchanges in the eastern sector of south Lebanon yesterday. The army spokesman said gunmen had earlier fired mortars at IDF troops on operational duties near Huleh village, in the security zone.

There were no casualties among the soldiers and IDF gunners returned fire towards the origin of the shooting - a building used as an Amal headquarters in the J'majneeh region north of the zone. The spokesman said at least one Amal gunman was killed. *David Rudge*

Man kills wife, but fails in suicide bid

A 75-year-old man survived a suicide attempt yesterday after assisting his wife to end her own life. Neighbors called the police after finding Moshe Greenberg of Herzliya lying semi-conscious next to his dead wife, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease and apparently died of a drug overdose.

Greenberg, who was very sick himself, had taken his 70-year-old wife Matilda from the Mishan senior citizen's home she was staying in to their apartment. Greenberg, still semi-conscious, was taken to a hospital emergency room where his stomach was pumped after large quantities of tranquilizers were found in his system. *Michal Yudelman*

KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL
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The funeral will take place today, Thursday, December 25, at 1:30 p.m., at the Haifa Cemetery, Kfar Samir (Oren Gate).

Kurt Shlomo Jagerman
Ida Moshal
Yael and Effi Lavie
Dana and Amir Hayek
Sharon and Assaf
Gideon
Sivan, Yuval and Maya

PM denies hiding pullback figures

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday denied reports that he had told the US and Palestinians the scope of further redeployment, but that he was keeping the information from the cabinet until after the state budget has passed.

Last night Israel Radio reported Labor MK Uzi Baram as saying Foreign Minister David Levy was the senior source who claimed that Netanyahu was withholding information from the cabinet.

"The reports that I had told US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright the percentage of the redeployment are false. I never did that," Netanyahu told reporters following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"It's not my personal decision," he continued, "but it is the government which has to decide on these most important issues, including on the permanent

arrangements. No scope of redeployment and no figures were given."

He said the opposition is guessing at the final figures. "so that if they come close they can say: 'We told you it was decided in advance.'" He said the process is complicated and still under discussion in the cabinet.

"Unlike in the Oslo Agreement when the ministers and defense establishment had no idea that something was going on, we're doing it the other way round," said Netanyahu. "These discussions will determine the country's future and security and we must be careful and responsible. We must examine national interests and deduce the scope of the redeployment from this," he said. "The process of [cabinet] discussions on the subject have yet to be completed and therefore I could not give anyone the scope of the redeployment."

Netanyahu and Levy agreed to meet this

morning to discuss their mutual concern about the current pace of the peace process, the prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, confirmed.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that Netanyahu had agreed to a 10.5 percent to 12 percent redeployment, but is delaying announcing it until next month. He also accused the prime minister of giving in to US dictates.

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin made a similar claim, saying Netanyahu had already given in "to a PLO-Hamas alliance." Netanyahu denied this and also rejected reports that he was keeping Levy in the dark. "I value his work and his contribution to the peace process," Netanyahu said. "We have worked together and am sure we will continue to work together." He denied he is considering holding early elections.

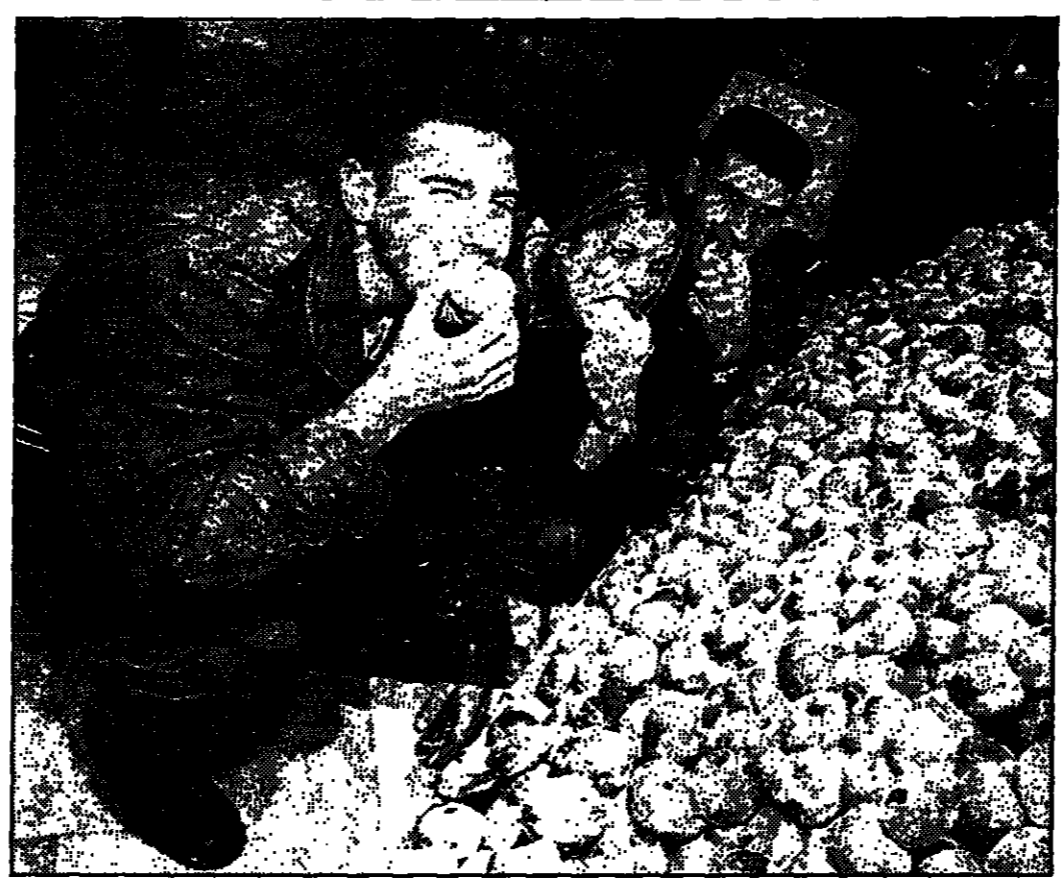
Netanyahu reportedly told the committee the government continues to stand by

the principle that progress depends on the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments.

Netanyahu told reporters the US is helping, not determining, the policy for Israel. "There is a US commitment that the Palestinians will abide by the agreements," he said. "[US negotiator] Dennis Ross has signed on this. If there is no terrorist activity we can meet and take decisions [on the redeployment] during January," he said.

He reportedly told the MKs that he had given orders that not one settlement be touched, adding: "I don't think that in Washington, thousands of miles away, they understand the importance of a security zone."

Regarding the European Union, Netanyahu said Israel must continue to present its side as the only way to moderate the EU's automatic support of the Palestinians.



Hanukka hysteria
Soldiers get into a jam as they tuck into a record-breaking four-meter high pyramid of 6,400 doughnuts in Dovrat. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Ateret Cohanim demands better security

By ELLI WOHLGELEITNER

Ateret Cohanim yeshiva students demanded upgraded security yesterday, warning in a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that their safety was at risk and that the onus would fall on the government if they came under attack.

Their concern has grown in the aftermath of the slaying five weeks ago of yeshiva student, Gabriel Hirschberg, and the subsequent stabbing and wounding of another student near the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City.

"We absolve ourselves of any responsibility for the situation that exists now including all the terrible risks involved in it," wrote yeshiva executive director Yossi Baumol.

Despite promises last week that security in the Old City would be improved, only three security personnel were spotted during a one-hour tour of the Moslem Quarter yesterday afternoon.

Baumol indicated there were two main differences with the authorities over how to improve security. One was over the yeshiva's demands for gun permits for private guards.

"In our meeting a month ago," Baumol wrote Netanyahu, "you ordered us to make sure that our students move through the alleyways of the Old City under armed guard provided by the Modi'in Ezrachi company funded by the Housing Ministry.... Unfortunately, the company cannot put the guards into action for a month now because the Israeli police has not found a way to provide them with the necessary permits for their guns."

The second issue is a conflict with police over whether to add foot patrols or guard posts. Baumol would prefer adding permanent positions so that students know where to get help.

Jerusalem Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said a decision was made against setting up a fixed position.

CLARIFICATION

On Tuesday, December 16, *The Jerusalem Post* published a list of individuals who have unclaimed property registered in the Polish land registry. Those who found their names on this list, compiled by Poldoor International Ltd., should contact the company at (03) 6915597 or in New York at 212-532-5740. The company also has offices in Brussels and Paris - and not as reported.

Elon's 2nd Hanukka miracle

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Emunah Elon experienced her second Hanukka miracle in as many years Tuesday night when she escaped unscathed with her daughter and 18-month-old grandson from a shooting at her car near the Morag intersection in the Gaza Strip.

Elon, a former advisor to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on women's affairs and wife of Moledet MK Benny Elon, had another close call when she passed Beit El moments before a shooting at the same spot killed Yoel and Ita Tsaur as they drove by, and their son Ephraim, during Hanukka

MEMO

Continued from Page 1

The prime minister denied that he turned a cold shoulder to the military establishment, contending that the opposite was true. He contended that IDF officers have been doing dedicated and important work in the political domain. "I have full confidence in the IDF and its officers," he said.

Netanyahu said the issue is not only a security document, but also a detailed work program that includes a built-in mechanism for internal control and evaluation.

MK Uzi Baram (Labor) described the committee meeting

as "one of the most miserable" he had ever witnessed, saying Netanyahu came under attack from both Left and Right over his reported criticism of the security memorandum.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor) accused Netanyahu of "for political reasons, cynically hurting and abandoning the heads of the defense establishment who worked on his behalf. The prime minister did not hesitate to shoot Yanai in his professional back." Ramon also accused Netanyahu of misleading the committee.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid told Netanyahu: "You say things and nobody believes you. This is the most serious problem Israel has, that nobody believes you."

IDF should be consulted on security agreements

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's criticism of a memorandum of understanding on security

IN CONTEXT

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, ex-deputy head of the GSS, also stressed professional advice

was important in reaching security decisions.

"The GSS and the IDF are responsible for preventing terrorism, catching terrorists and dealing with the problems on the ground. They have to be involved," said Ezra.

But he said this did not mean that politicians had to agree with whatever document the IDF drew up.

"There also has to be a time clause to enable us to see that the Palestinians are honoring their side of any agreement that is reached."

Ezra maintained that the government should drop a clause requiring extradition of terror suspects. "Anybody who adheres to this clause does not really want an agreement with the Palestinians because it is unworkable. Could you see us extraditing Jews to the Palestinians?" Ezra said.

Prof. Barry Rubin at Bar Ilan University said that in the absence of a national security council, the military had to be consulted on security issues. He noted instances in which the government erred in not considering the military's advice.

"If the military advises on something and this advice is ignored and there is a problem in the future, the politicians will be called to account for it. An example of this was the opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem," which triggered riots last year, he said.

Haifa mayor Amram Mitzna, former OC Central Command, believes that not only should the army advise the government, but that policymaking is smoother when the prime minister is also the defense minister.

"In a country with so many security problems and where the issue is so important, there is a great deal of logic in this concept. All the arguments can then be solved in-house," Mitzna said.

Mitzna described the apparent disagreement between Netanyahu and senior army and security experts over the memorandum between Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs - drawn up under CIA auspices - as "absurd and sorrowful."

He said there were a series of precedents in which senior army and GSS chiefs failed to receive government backing to the detriment of the decision-making process.

"The defense establishment represents the main tool by which the political echelon can do its work properly and help the government to implement its policies and take decisions. There should never be any schism between the two," said Mitzna.

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the Custodian of the Holy Land, Father Maher (Maghar), the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, the French Consulate, the Consistoire Israelite Nice and Paris, Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, the Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tiberias, and to the doctors and to St. Joseph's Hospital for the assistance and support they provided, in connection with the death of my mother, my accident, and sickness.

I wish them all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR - 1998

Dr. Beatrice Kellermann

Appeal to a Witness

I ask the witness who assisted me after the accident, which took place at the Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tiberias, on August 20, 1994, to contact me, as soon as possible, at the Notre Dame Center, Room No. 114, or to telephone me (02-627-9111).

With grateful thanks,
Dr. Beatrice Kellermann

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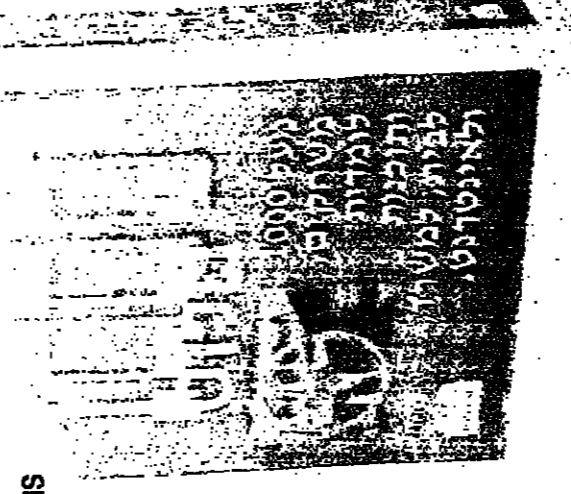
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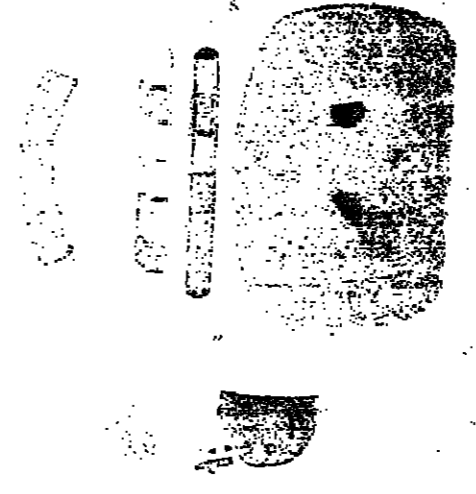


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היפרקול והיפרסול

Walker denies Luxor charges

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The new American ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker Jr. presented his credentials to President Ezer Weizman yesterday in a dignified yet festive ceremony that symbolized the highlight of the US diplomat's 30-year-long career.



US Ambassador Edward Walker inspects an honor guard at Beit Hanassi yesterday.

Asked about The Jerusalem Post's report that he told Foreign Minister David Levy that Iran was behind the terrorist attack in Luxor, Egypt, last month and that the linkage was to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Walker said: "No, that is not exactly what I said."

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The Foreign Ministry tell what they want to on this issue. Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On refused to comment on the Levy-Walker discussion.

Prior to the credentials ceremony, a senior ministry official denied that it was Walker who pinned the blame on Iran in the course of his meeting with Levy Tuesday afternoon.

Walker was based in Cairo as the US ambassador from 1994 until his appointment to the US's Tel Aviv embassy two months ago. The official, who attended his meeting with Levy along with six other persons, said Walker cited the consensus in Cairo that Iran supports Egypt's Islamic extremists.

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New treatment for prostate cancer

By JUDY SEGEL

An implant containing a compound that suppresses the production of testosterone in men has been developed by an Israeli-American team to treat metastasizing prostate cancer. It has been used in clinical studies on 34 patients, and it could take two years for it to gain approval from the US Food and Drug Administration.

The implant, which is inserted into the skin, was developed by Prof. Irving Spitz of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital with scientists from the Population Council in New York. Although histrelina, a synthetic form of the natural hormone LH-RH - which controls the body's production of sex hormones - has been around for some time, the delivery system via a hydrogel implant is the innovation.

Until now, this type of prostate cancer has been treated by castration or quarterly injections of testosterone suppressors, which are painful and inconvenient. Spitz, who heads the hospital's hormone research institute, conducted a study of the implant along with Dr. Amitsur Farkas, who heads the urology department, and Prof. Raphael Caiaone, who heads the oncology institute. The implant is also being tested at Cornell University and the University of Salzburg.

Spitz said that prostate cancer is the first type of tumor proven to be connected to hormone production. Implanting the 2.6 cm. long capsule under the skin on the inner part of the arm is a simple procedure (some women undergo Norplant implants under their skin to prevent pregnancy).

MKs set up caucus for Pollard

By LIAT COLLINS

Quiet diplomacy has failed to gain convicted spy Jonathan Pollard's release, so the time has come for open and intensive activity instead, said MK Ophir Pines (Labor) yesterday when he inaugurated the Knesset Caucus for Pollard.

The new lobby received a sizeable turnout of ministers and MKs, including Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who both recently met with Pollard in jail.

Edelstein said hundreds of people had asked to help Pollard. He suggested the lobby ask the chief rabbis to include Pollard's name in the prayer for MIAs and POWs, a practice Edelstein said exists in his synagogue.

Livnat added that Israel must exploit the current momentum for his release. Edelstein said hundreds of people had asked to help Pollard. He suggested the lobby ask the chief rabbis to include Pollard's name in the prayer for MIAs and POWs, a practice Edelstein said exists in his synagogue.

Easygoing before the big vote

BUDGET '98

By DAVID HARRIS

Wednesday 9 a.m. - the sixth vote of the day on the 1998 budget arrangements bill in the Knesset. The result? A victory for the opposition by 44 votes to 42. The outcome? The official title of the arrangements bill - The Intensification of Growth and Employment bill - is rejected.

At any one time there were no more than 10 MKs in the plenum, with the exception of key voting times when whips and their aides frantically scoured the building for absentees, with one and sometimes two cellular phones pressed to their ears.

carnival feeling to the proceedings.

Perhaps the best location for an up-to-date view of developments was a perch just outside Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's Knesset office. Throughout the day a stream of MKs, party delegations and senior civil servants filed in and out of Neeman's inner sanctum. The religious parties, the immigrant's party and a delegation of Arab MKs entered hopefully and exited tight-lipped, one after another - their election manifesto pledges either dashed for another 12 months or at long last fulfilled.

And so this annual festival will continue until midnight December 31, when 120 MKs decide the fiscal fate of the country for the year ahead.

Tichon ejects Sarid from Knesset

By DAVID HARRIS

Knesset speaker Dan Tichon yesterday threw Meretz leader Yossi Sarid out of the Knesset plenum in a dispute over allegations that the Speaker delayed a budget vote for lack of a coalition majority.

Within seconds after the stroke of 8, Sarid and other opposition MKs shouted out, accusing Tichon of delaying the vote. Tichon later denied this. At the time he responded by calling Sarid to order three times, and then demanded that he leave the plenum, which Sarid refused to do.

Tichon then closed the session and opposition MKs accused him of doing so as a delay tactic.

- Where to eat in Israel. Eilat: Tandoori Indian Restaurant, Herzliva Pituaah, Atlantis Fish & Sea Food Restaurant, Jerusalem: Angelo Ristorante Italiano, Bird of Paradise, Darina, Eshel Avraham Avinu, Gucalyptus, Hechal Shlomo, Kohanoor, Little Jerusalem, Marvad Haksamin Oriental Restaurant, Norman's Steak'n Burger, Pera & Mela, Restaurant Mishkenot Shaananim, Rienci.

- Second Cup Coffee Co., Sheiners, Sigmond Corner Bistrophe, Surfers Paradise, The 7th Place, Trocadero, Tzaddik's New York Style Deli, Rimon Restaurant, Galilee-Mitzpe Michmanim, Tel Aviv: Ramat-Aviv Hotel, Restaurant Cafe Tel Aviv, Tandoori Indian Restaurant, Rosh Pina: The Lebanon Restaurant.

Hebrew Press Review. Zionism congress. Labor lost. Coming together in Athens. Shetreet also bridges a gap. Two holidays. Advertisement for Israel Airports Authority Tender No. HET MEM 10/97.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a note or signature.

US announces air-to-ground missile sale to Israel

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

Israel is likely to purchase 45 AGM-142D air-to-ground missiles for \$41 million, the US Defense Department announced yesterday in Washington. The missiles are an improved version of the 3,000 pound Israeli Popeye missile and will be manufactured partially in Israel by Rafael.

The proposed sale also includes production start-up support for Precision Guided Systems US (PGSUS) which operates out of Orlando, Florida. PGSUS is a joint venture between Lockheed Martin Electronics and Missiles, a unit of Lockheed Martin Corp., and Rafael.

Rafael spokesman Noach Shachar said the deal was part of an arrangement to use US foreign military aid funds to purchase what is in effect an Israeli missile. The US gives Israel \$1.8 billion in military grants each year, but its use is conditional on some of it being spent in the US. The AGM-142 series is virtually identical with the Popeye, but the D version is considered more advanced.

Both US and Israeli warplanes are equipped with the standoff missile. The Pentagon said the proposed sale of the AGM-142D missiles would give Israel an increased capability to target, strike and destroy underground or reinforced bunkers.

The Pentagon said that the missiles would be sold to Israel without data links and the sale would

also include containers, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, as well as logistic and technical support by US government employees and contractors.

"This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East," the Pentagon said.

Implementation of the proposed sale would require the assignment

of about 12 to 15 US government workers or contractors in Israel for periodic visits for up to three years, the US Defense department said in a statement.

The home-grown, highly-accurate Popeye missile was based on the combat experience of the IAF and has been operational since the late 1980s. Israel has marketed the missile abroad and Rafael and Lockheed Martin have already cooperated to produce the AGM-142 for the US Air Force. The manufacturing of the missiles will be done at each company's factories here and in the US.

Agreements aimed at streamlining defense industries

In a move aimed at streamlining the defense industries, two agreements were signed yesterday for cooperation in sales of electronic warfare systems and in technical upgrades of F-16 fighter jets.

The first agreement defines principles for cooperation between the Defense Ministry and Eilat, the government-owned branch of Israel Aircraft Industries, and Elita, a subsidiary of Technion in the field of electronic warfare. The second agreement involved a cooperation arrangement between the IAI and Elbit Systems to upgrade F-16 jets.

Ministry officials are currently working on a draft agreement to cooperate in upgrading fighter jets and sell pilotless UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and it is expected to be signed soon, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. The initiative behind the agreements comes from Defense Ministry director-general Ilan Bria, who wants to cut duplication and enhance local defense industries' capability for winning contracts abroad.

Police claim Afuta killed Elimelech

By **ELLI WOHLGELERTER**

Police said yesterday that Jerusalem hairdresser David Afuta shot and killed model Anat Elimelech three weeks ago before turning the gun on himself. The findings reversed an earlier police scenario.

Police said that shooting-trajectory analyses, and forensic and fingerprint tests confirmed that Afuta fired all three shots - one to the chest of Elimelech that killed her, one non-lethal wound to his shoulder, and then the fatal shot to his chest. "We are not 100 percent sure, but 99.9," said Yossi Portugal, head of investigations. Police earlier surmised that Elimelech had killed Afuta with two bullets before shooting herself. But in a cryptic briefing to reporters yesterday,

police said the investigation was still continuing regarding some unanswered questions. Foremost among these is how the murder weapon ended up alongside Elimelech's right hand on the floor.

Police said they found the two bodies lying on the floor of the apartment alongside a pull-out sofa, outstretched and parallel to each other, with Afuta's head by Elimelech's feet and his legs laying over her left arm.

One theory involves Afuta's two brothers, Yossi and Shimon, who climbed into the apartment from the roof, while a locksmith was working on picking the door lock. Sources said police are working on a theory that it was the brothers who put the gun next to Elimelech's hand. Channel 1 said the

brothers were being questioned.

Nir Elimelech, Anat's brother, said yesterday that after hearing the story from police, "We are not surprised, because we know that Anat would not shoot even a mosquito - she was too nice."

Police said they would recommend to state prosecutors that the case be closed, because the murderer himself was dead.

Afuta was a well known hairdresser who, until two weeks before his death, had been cutting the hair of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara.

Elimelech was a top model and the star of the Hyper-Kol supermarket chain ads. She had also made two children's videos and was to perform in the Festigal children's show this week.



Jobs for Ofakim

An unemployed man, Moshe Cohen (right), meets with Zion Lugasi (center) of the Electric Company workers' union, and Haim Hofer, personnel director for the Israel Electric Corp., as the company agrees to open up training courses which would create 50 jobs in unemployment-ridden Ofakim.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Druse first non-Jew on general staff

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

A Druse general has been recommended to take over as the government's deputy coordinator of activities in the territories, defense sources confirmed yesterday.

When appointed, Brig-Gen. Yusef Mishlav will be the first non-Jewish officer to serve in a senior general staff position in the IDF. There have been at least two other Druse generals, but they did not serve on the general staff.

Coordinator of government activities in the territories Maj-Gen. Yaakov "Mandy" Or recommended Mishlav, 45, as his deputy a few months ago.

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak recently approved the promotion in consultations with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Defense sources said Mishlav's appointment is to be officially announced soon.

As deputy, Mishlav is to be responsible for the border crossings between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and much of his work will revolve around the renovations being done at Karni Crossing. He is also to work with the Jordanians and act as a liaison to international organizations.

Mishlav is currently the chief staff officer of the Southern Command. In the past he commanded a reserve division in the south. There is currently only an acting deputy coordinator for the territories, since Brig-Gen. Baruch Spiegel stepped down four months ago.

Mishlav is from the village of Abu Sna'an and a 27-year, decorated career officer.

He has served in the past as deputy commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria and deputy commander of IDF forces in Lebanon. He is a graduate of the IDF's National Defense College and has an MA in political science from Haifa University.

Frozen amendment could free inmates

Dozens of suspects could be released after a decision by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday to freeze an amendment to the Detention Law pending a review of financing involved.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman was expected to meet the committee, which is chaired by Shaul Yablon (National Religious Party), over the issue. If the amendment remains frozen by January 1, the law would go into effect and dozens of suspects held for six months or longer without having completed their trials, would be released.

Treasury accused of misleading public

MK Rafi Ehl (Labor) who heads the Social Lobby in the Knesset convened an emergency meeting of the caucus yesterday inside the health workers' protest tent opposite the Knesset, and accused Finance Ministry officials of misleading the public to get the budget passed.

Ehl rejected as "lies and falsehoods," statements by David

AT THE KNESSET

BY **YIP COHEN**

Milgrom, the Finance Ministry official in charge of budget allocations, that NIS 650 million could be gained by making the health system more efficient.

New Jordan Valley Caucus formed

Amid all the budget talk of cuts yesterday, a new Knesset caucus was launched for fear of cuts of a different kind. The Caucus for the Jordan Valley and North Dead Sea Area Settlements is the initiative of Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi. The first meeting was attended by some 20 MKs from seven factions including Labor.

Adoption law could be postponed

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said

yesterday that a law regarding adoptions abroad could not go into effect as planned January 1 since no organization has volunteered to act as an adoption agency.

"There is no address for couples to turn to in Israel to help them with the adoptions," Zucker said. He said this situation is "dangerous" since irresponsible bodies could still try to take over the field for profit motives, despite the legislative attempts to prevent this.

Mikvehs are safe

The Health Ministry yesterday denied there were any grounds for reports that mikvehs were dangerously polluted or a health hazard. The reports followed a meeting of the Knesset Public Complaints Committee on the issue this week.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas) said the ministry's chief engineer Shalom Goldberger said that the mikvehs posed no dangers and were in good condition.

PA calls finished census a success

By **ELLI WOHLGELERTER**

The Palestinian Authority is calling its national census an overwhelming success, with a 99.9 percent response rate, despite its claim of some 100 cases of Israeli harassment against census-takers.

Daud Deek, assistant executive director for public affairs for the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, said the two-week census - which ended yesterday - has been "very successful, and the percentage of respondents I think has never been matched in any area of the world. This is an accurate percentage, it is documented, and not for the purposes of propaganda. We are very happy about it."

Deek said the cases of harassment include raiding the census offices in Palestinian areas, the

imposition of curfews in certain areas, detaining census-takers for a few hours, and questionnaire papers being torn up by soldiers.

Overall, he said, seven people were detained over the past two weeks for a few hours and then released.

On Monday, census supervisor Amjed Rimawi was arrested by IDF soldiers at a checkpoint near Ramallah. Deek said Rimawi was the first person connected to the census held overnight.

"We will publish the full report regarding this harassment, by day

and time, and who from our team was harassed. We are working on it now," Deek said.

The hardest areas to survey, Deek said, were the villages around Jerusalem, accounting for the 0.1 percent that did not participate in the census.


"There are about 200-300 people not counted, and we are dealing with them; we are persuading them to fill in the questionnaire," Deek said.

He refused to comment on any census-taking attempts inside Jerusalem city limits.

Last week, PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Hussein admitted that plans to conduct the census in eastern areas of Jerusalem were put on hold indefinitely, both because of interference by Israel and fear by Arab residents of the city over losing their Israeli identification cards.

Hussein said a survey in eastern Jerusalem will eventually be carried out, probably through an academic body, and that the census does not necessarily need to be conducted through PA institutions.

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Weekender

The year of living modestly

Small-scale, independent films provided the best viewing in 1997

By ADINA HOFFMAN
This year was a good one for film. And I use the word "good" - not "great" or "wonderful" - advisedly, since 1997 brought a sizable batch of probably well-made and thoughtful pictures, movies that do not mean to change the face of the art but which, in the meantime, have consistently provided entertainment of a modest and satisfying sort. Though Hollywood continued to crank out its usual overblown, empty-headed special-effects vehicles, it seemed to be more substance and variety to pick and choose from than in recent years, as well

Makhmalbaf retrospective at the Jerusalem Film Festival and later shown in limited commercial release: although quite different from one another, both are works of astounding originality, texture, and deceptive formal simplicity - not to be confused with thematic naivete.

In his spare, wry way Makhmalbaf - a former revolutionary and political prisoner, who claims he never saw a film before the age of 23 - manages at once to use the most basic materials at hand (a single camera, non-professional actors, the streets of Teheran) and to question the very mechanisms on which the cinema relies (plot, role-playing and even the practice of shooting multiple

gusto: the film both pokes irreverent fun at the star/hero's celebrity status and relies on it shamelessly.

3. *Ulee's Gold* is also an American movie, by Florida independent Victor Nunez, but its modest literary scope, restrained tempo and carefully understated characterizations bring it closer in spirit to a European film than anything the studio bosses, or Howard Stern, ever dreamed up. As the title character, a widower bee-keeper and emotionally cut-off Vietnam vet, Peter Fonda gives his fullest and most affecting performance ever.

4. The only big-budget, star-studded Hollywood picture - and the only action movie - on my list is *Face/Off*, Hong Kong virtuoso John Woo's crazily passionate shoot 'em up, which features John Travolta and Nicolas Cage in AC-DC roles: the two switch characters halfway through and ham it up as each other. Their performances are funny and strangely convincing, and Woo's choreography of their outrageous gun battles is, true to form, just as fluidly balletic as it is hyperbolically bloody.

5. It may not be perfect or profound, but *Bean* made me laugh harder and more spontaneously than any other movie this year. British comic Rowan Atkinson's demeanor as the haplessly mischievous, barely verbal Mr. Bean provided some of the year's most ticklish moments of physical comedy. (The only real competition came from Jim Carrey in *Liar Liar*, a mediocre movie with an inspired performance by its nimble crackpot of a star.)

6. Robert A. Harris and James C. Katz's expert restoration of Alfred Hitchcock's classic *Vertigo* was important on several fronts: by heightening colors that had begun to dull with the years and re-mastering Bernard Herrmann's great, hypnotic score, they returned it to the proper place (the viscera) the impact of one of the cinema's most enduring romantic thrillers. At the same time, they set another admirable precedent for the re-release of other old films into current, world-wide circulation. This was also the year of *The Star Wars* trilogy come-back, after all, and while Luke Skywalker and



A soccer-mad schoolboy becomes a soccer-mad adult (Colin Firth) in 'Fever Pitch.'

Princess Lea clearly don't begin to approach in lasting resonance or depth the James Stewart-Kim Novak characters in Hitchcock's 1958 psychosexual masterpiece, the successful return of the popular sci-fi pictures also proved the viability (both economic and cultural) of keeping all these different pieces of film history in active circulation, and not just on the TV set.

7. A small French film with surprisingly large implications, *A Self-Made Hero* (or, in its more elegant, original title, *Un héros très discret*) blended sly humor with searing political allegory in a way that's quite rare in today's cinema. Jacques Audiard directed this caustic historical comedy, set just after World War II, about an over-imaginative young man who becomes quite powerful when he concocts a bogus identity for himself as a former hero of the Resistance. In choosing to deny the extent and nature of their relations with the Vichy government, Audiard makes clear, many contemporary French politicians have also dangerously fudged the past. Though its point is simple and tone amusing, the film unfolds with unexpected nuance and pathos.

8. Several modest British comedies came our way this year, my favorite of which was definitely *Fever Pitch*, Nick Hornby's winning adaptation of his own best-seller about his lifelong obsession with the Arsenal soccer club. The movie is a love triangle that pits Ruth Gemmill and the Highbury Gunners in direct competition for Colin Firth's affections, and one that manages, against the odds, to appeal both to those who love soccer and those who can't stand it.

9. *When the Cat's Away* (*Chacun cherche son chat*) is a marvelously fresh film by the French director Cedric Klapisch. A simple-seeming story of a lonely young Parisian's search for her missing pet, the movie evolves in unexpected ways as a bittersweet meditation on love, loss, gentrification and having next-door neighbors.

Like Eric Rohmer and François Truffaut before him, Klapisch displays affection for his beautiful heroine that seems to flow directly from his love for particular Parisian streets (or vice versa). The city exists here as both a real and a make-believe place, and Klapisch manages to juggle with unusual grace the casually hip young-singles atmosphere his characters inhabit with a melancholy wistfulness for the old ways, fast in decline.

10. And finally, I regret to report that one of the happiest surprises of my movie year was shared by few other viewers. For whatever reason, *Big Night*, a lovely little fable about food and families, money and art came and disappeared after just a few weeks here. Co-directed by actors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott, this wise and perfectly proportioned picture deserved much more than the reception it got locally; then again, the very subject it took on (the difficulty of maintaining at one and the same time aesthetic standards and balanced books) seems also to have been its undoing. With a few exceptions, box-office success and artistic quality were still, in 1997, several leagues apart.



Albert Dehous (Mathieu Kassovitz) pretends to be a member of the French resistance in 'A Self-Made Hero.'

an appealing range of scale. In general, though, it seems fair to say that the smaller, lighter films of 1997 were better (fresher, smarter, livelier) than their more grandiose counterparts.

For the record, it is probably worth noting the quality of many of the pictures that aren't included in the following round-up but which deserve mention: *Donnie Brasco*, *Secrets and Lies*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *Blood and Wine*, *The Full Monty*, *LA Confidential*, *Ridicule*, *Copland*, *Mrs. Brown*, *The English Patient*, *Afterglow* and *Contact* all had much to recommend them. Your own top-10 list may include several of these. Mine does not. What follows is, then, not definitive; instead, this is a list of my favorite movies of the 130 or so new, commercial releases that I've seen in Israel during the last 12 months.

1. The most exciting event in my movie-going year was without a doubt my first encounter with the beautiful, complicated films of the director Mohsen Makhmalbaf. The first Iranian movies to be shown locally since the Ayatollah came to power, *Gabbeh* and *A Moment of Innocence* were screened as part of a small

takes). Of all the films I've seen this year, these two (along with his powerful *Salaam Cinema*, which shows occasionally at the Cinematheques and serves as a companion piece to *A Moment*) were those that seem to me most likely to leave a lasting imprint on the art. Together with his countryman Abbas Kiarostami, whose concerns and methods are quite similar and whose *Taste of Cherry* won the Palme D'Or at this year's Cannes festival, Makhmalbaf seems once again to be taking active part in a revolution - though this time of a non-violent, cinematic kind.

2. Although his no-holds-barred on-air exhibitionism exists several galaxies away from Makhmalbaf's quiet world of nomadic carpet weavers and chador-wearing virgins, New York radio personality Howard Stern is also concerned with the tricky self-exposure and subterfuge that playing a character entails. In *Private Parts*, Betty Thomas's delightful picture based on his autobiography, Stern plays himself and pretends to let it all (his sexual fixations, childhood traumas and marital ups and downs) hang out. And with hilarious



Shock-jock Howard Stern sends himself up in 'Private Parts.'

Tel Aviv Area

Today may be Christmas in the rest of the world, but in Tel Aviv it's Nearly New Year's. YES (Young English Speakers) celebrates the holiday season with a quasi-New Year's Eve party tonight at the Basel Hotel. The music, food and free-flowing beverages begin at 9. The hotel is located at 156 Hayarkon Street. Call (09) 862-0377 or 613-6306.

If you thought you had to give up *Laserium* with monster-truck rallies and tractor pulls when you came to Israel, guess again. The Planetarium at the Eretz Yisrael Museum is offering up a trippy 3-D laser-light show with music by the Beatles, Pink Floyd and others. Catch all the action tonight at

9:30 and 11. New, young rock bands jam at Beit Lessin, the trendy Kikar Hamedina hot spot. The music starts at 10:30. Call 694-1111. The musical production *It's All a Fairytale* is written and directed by Uri Poster, with music by Shuki Levi. It takes the Cinerama stage today at 10 a.m., 1, 4 and 6:45 p.m.

Jerusalem

In case you still had any lingering doubts that the Maccabees were the first Rastafarians, the Jerusalem Steel is offering up a reggae, calypso and classical Hanukkah concert. Saturday night at 8:30 at the Bible Lands Museum, 25 Granot Street. Call 561-1066.

Hadassah's Second Stage Theater presents Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. The Doctor's tribute to the seaside neighborhood of his youth goes on tonight at 8 at Merkan Hamagshimim in the German Colony, 7a Dor V'Dorshav. Call 561-9165.

An international assortment of choruses and musicians from Ukraine, Greenland and the US salutes Israel tonight at 8:30 at the Jerusalem Theater. Henry Klaussner conducts the program of classical and folk songs. Alina Ashel's *Girl in the Flower* is a play for children based on Shalomit Cohen-Assaf's poems. Performance today at 11 a.m. at the Liberty Bell Garden Train Theater. A workshop entitled *Finger Faces* follows.

Congregation Mevakshei Derech is holding a Hanukkah party and children's pageant, complete with candle lighting and doughnuts. Today at 4:30 p.m. At 22 Shai Agnon Street. Call 679-2502.

Television

What do you do when you find out that your recently departed grandfather wasn't just a regular working-class dog all his life but actually fought in an international anti-fascist brigade during the Spanish Civil War? Well, if you're in director Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom*, you ruffle through his stuff and come up with a powerful and even entertaining film that airs on Second Showing tonight at 10.

Roasting chestnuts on an open fire

By AMY KLEN

If you see a thick, tall tree trunk winding its way up four stories through the ceiling of a smoky bar, then you're in Galiano in Jerusalem's Russian Compound.

They say the 30-40m. tree is 100 years old. It once stood in an apartment building courtyard, which was later enclosed around the tree. Later incarnations of the courtyard kept the thick old landmark, which bursts through the ceiling like Jack's beanstalk.

Galiano, formerly Arthur's, has also kept the tree but is undergoing renovations, most importantly in terms of its schedule. At least three times a week, Galiano will be hosting live music - rock, jazz and reggae-style bands. Thursdays, from midnight till daylight, the tables will be cleared for dancing.

Sundays are already booked with The Moshav Band, a classic rock-type Anglo group. You can see them tonight at 9:30 at Galiano's special Hanukkah party (no charge). Get a sampling of the place when they'll have live music most of the holiday.

The bar is dark and smoky, as seems to be a requisite of the Russian Compound (can't anyone just have a no-smoking, quiet bar where people can sit and talk, or am I just getting too old for this sort of thing?). But unlike its neighbors, it's rather large and roomy, a good place for a bigger crowd.

Galiano is open every night except Friday, from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. From 6 to 8 is happy hour (buy one drink, get one free). The bands will play from 9:30 till around midnight.

According to Avi Binyamin, the owner and manager, the prices of the drinks at Galiano are comparatively low, with a tequila slammer at NIS 7 and half a liter of beer at NIS 11. There's no food served here. But during these winter months Binyamin, believe it or not, roasts chestnuts on an open fire (the black furnace standing in the corner). This gives the place the smell of a New York City street corner during the Christmas season.

And if you're wondering what you'll be doing on New Year's Eve instead of counting down as New York's Times Square big apple drops, you can reproduce the holiday spirit (i.e., get fabulously drunk) at Galiano's Sylvester party (there is an admission fee, which includes drinks).

Whenever you decide to go, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year's or on a plain old Saturday night, don't overlook the one thing that makes this place unique: a tree grows in the bar room.

Galiano, 8 Horkanos, Jerusalem (02) 624-7644

Movies on my mind

Actor Dan Turgeman talks about his favorite films

Dan Turgeman has starred in television dramas, miniseries and theater productions, both in Israel and abroad, such as an Israeli version of *Play It Again Sam*, and the Israeli television series *Emergency*. However, he says that movie acting is his highest priority and greatest love.

He began acting after the army, where he spent four years and completed an officer's course with the paratroopers. From Jerusalem, he moved to Tel Aviv to attend Tel Aviv University. Although he "still loves Jerusalem," Turgeman remained in Tel Aviv and lives near the trendy Sheinkin area.

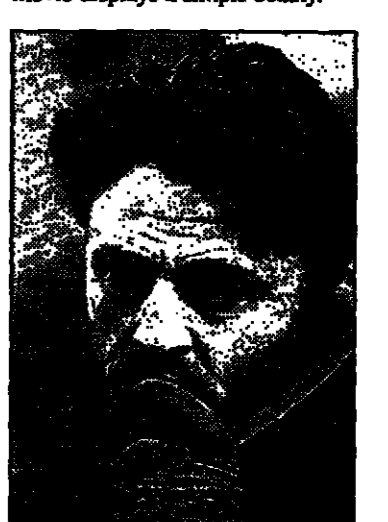
For 12 years, acting in 15 films, seven plays and 10 TV dramas, Turgeman dreamed of writing, producing and appearing in a film version of the book *Minotaur*. His family has clearly lived out this dream with him: his wife, Anat Atzmon, holds a key part in the movie, portraying the mother of the character he plays.

As an actor-turned-film-director, Turgeman talks about the films that have made a lasting impression on him.

Plus, Jack was just wonderful."

3. *The Double Life of Veronique* directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski (1991) starring Irene Jacob.

"This movie didn't pretend to give answers, just asked the right questions. Sometimes asking the right question is harder, and more important, than giving answers. The movie displays a simple beauty."



4. *Blade Runner* directed by Ridley Scott (1982), starring Harrison Ford and Sean Young. "The movie is philosophy, not just science. I've seen it many times. I've even seen the uncut studio version."

5. The films of John Cassavetes, such as *Husbands* (1970), *A Woman under the Influence* (1974).

"These are great because they show people standing up to the system. They directly oppose the figures of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, and it's so hard to do that. They show that stubborn human passion can do unforgettable things."

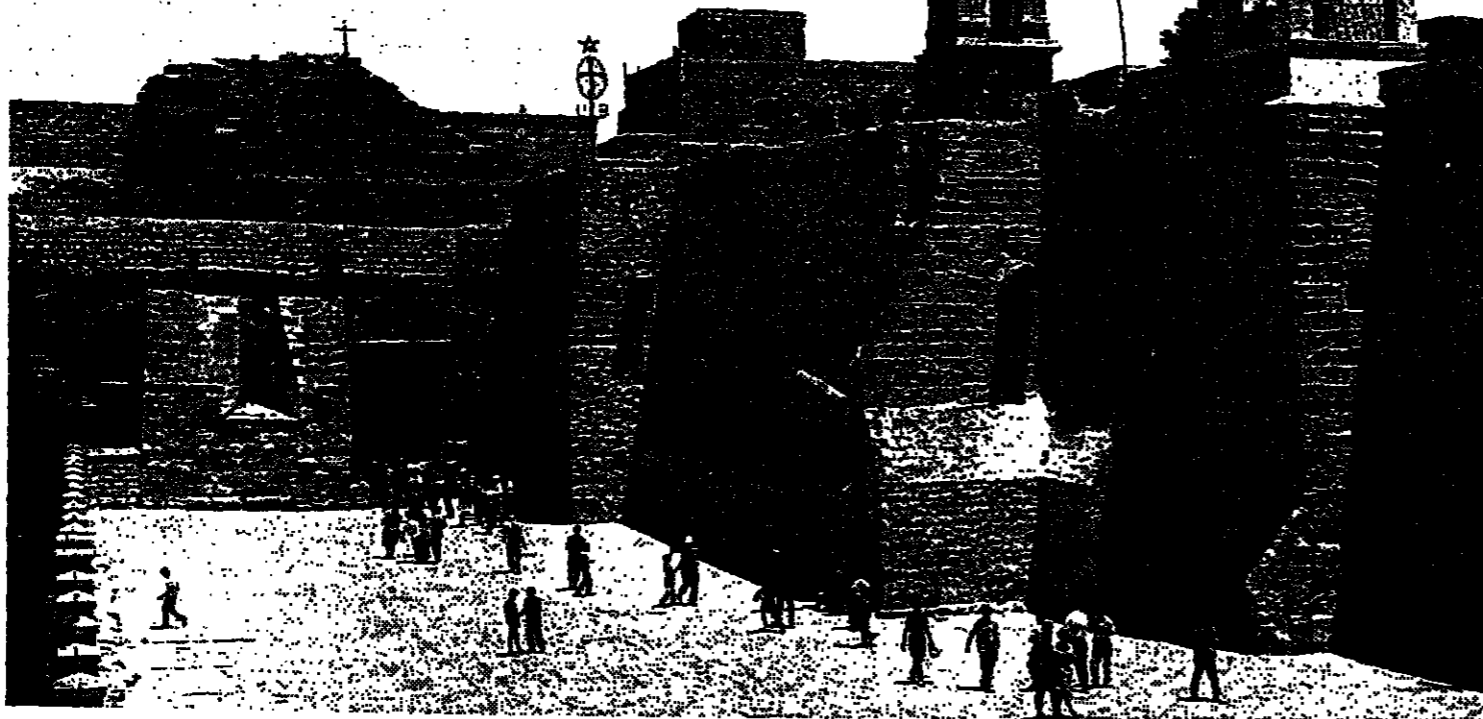
- Dahlia Scheindlin

Hot tips

By KAREN SIKKAS

The Church of the Nativity

Day Tripper By Haim Shapiro



According to the centuries-old status quo regulating the holy places, the rights to most of the historic church are held by the Greek Orthodox.

(David Harris)

Last night, the eyes and ears of much of the Western world, if not Israel, were on Bethlehem and on the Church of the Nativity, which marks the birthplace of Jesus.

The fact that the midnight mass broadcast all over the world did not take place in the Church of the Nativity was only one of the paradoxes regarding this ancient shrine and the Christian presence in Bethlehem. Another is that the town, with so many Christian sites and associations, is mostly Moslem.

While Palestinian spokesmen have often accused Israel of being the cause of the Christian emigration, which is one of the reasons for this small Christian presence, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah described the phenomenon as a theological "mystery." Speaking at an international conference on religious liberty in Jerusalem last week, Sabbah noted that there had been large-scale emigration by all communities, Moslem as well as Christian, and even Jewish. He went on to say that the Christian presence in Jerusalem and its environs had always been small. The first Christian episcopate had been in Caesarea, then in Antioch, he noted.

These days, Bethlehem is, of course, part of the Palestinian autonomy and it remains to be seen

whether the political situation between Israel and the Palestinians will become peaceful enough for the masses of pilgrims and tourists who once crowded the shrine to return. If there is peace, we can expect unprecedented numbers of visitors for the year 2000, marking two millennia of Christianity. But if there is no peace, even such a historic landmark will not bring visitors, who are not only fearful for their safety but unwilling to go to a place they imagine to be rife with strife.

For local visitors, I would recommend waiting for a sunny day on which there is no political unrest and making the short trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to see what is one of the country's most remarkable buildings. The church was built by Justinian in 540. It retains the historic basilica form: with two rows of parallel columns supporting the roof.

From Manger Square, one enters through a small doorway so low that one must stoop to enter. Whether this was a measure to force all those entering to pay obeisance, as some guides would have it, or a way of preventing conquerors from entering on horseback, as other guides say, is a matter of conjecture.

Inside, there are several wooden



(Nowitz)

covers on the floor, protecting the mosaics which have remained from the earlier, fourth century, church. Usually some of these covers are open, to allow you to see the mosaics. But just as impressive as these mosaics, if not as ancient, are the remains of frescoes on the columns and of the

12th-century mosaics on the south wall, above the columns.

To the east is the altar, under which is the crypt, a natural cave where a silver star in the floor marks the exact birthplace of Jesus. The walls of the crypt are covered by heavy leather hangings, apparently placed there to

prevent pious pilgrims from taking away bits of the wall to keep as sacred mementos.

According to the centuries-old status quo regulating the holy places, the rights to most of the historic church are held by the Greek Orthodox. North of the altar are an Armenian chapel and a smaller

Syrian Orthodox chapel. However, the Roman Catholics, who celebrate the mass which is broadcast throughout the world, have relatively few rights within this historic church. Their main Christmas service is held in the adjoining church, St. Catherine's, built in 1882, which is accessed through a small

door behind the Armenian chapel. Because the Orthodox churches in this country follow a calendar which is no longer used in the Western world, the Greek Orthodox mark Christmas on the eve of January 6, while the Armenians have their Christmas celebration on the eve of January 18.



(Britan Handberg)

Close Encounters By Allan Rabinowitz

The enduring mystery of Qumran

By ALLAN RABINOWITZ

In the 50 years since a Beduin boy stumbled upon a cave in Qumran filled with scrolls, the subsequent discoveries of hundreds of manuscripts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls have fascinated the world. Scores of books and thousands of articles have analyzed and speculated upon their place in first-century Jewish society, and possible links to early Christianity. Over the years the study of the scrolls itself became controversial, as various scholars, protecting their academic turf, hindered manuscript publication.

The ruins of Qumran near the northwestern tip of the Dead Sea, where the scrolls were found, is now a national park. At first glance the most remarkable thing about the site is how unremarkable it is as an archeological excavation. Nevertheless, if you walk around the area you can begin to sense the lives of the men who isolated themselves here in the first century.

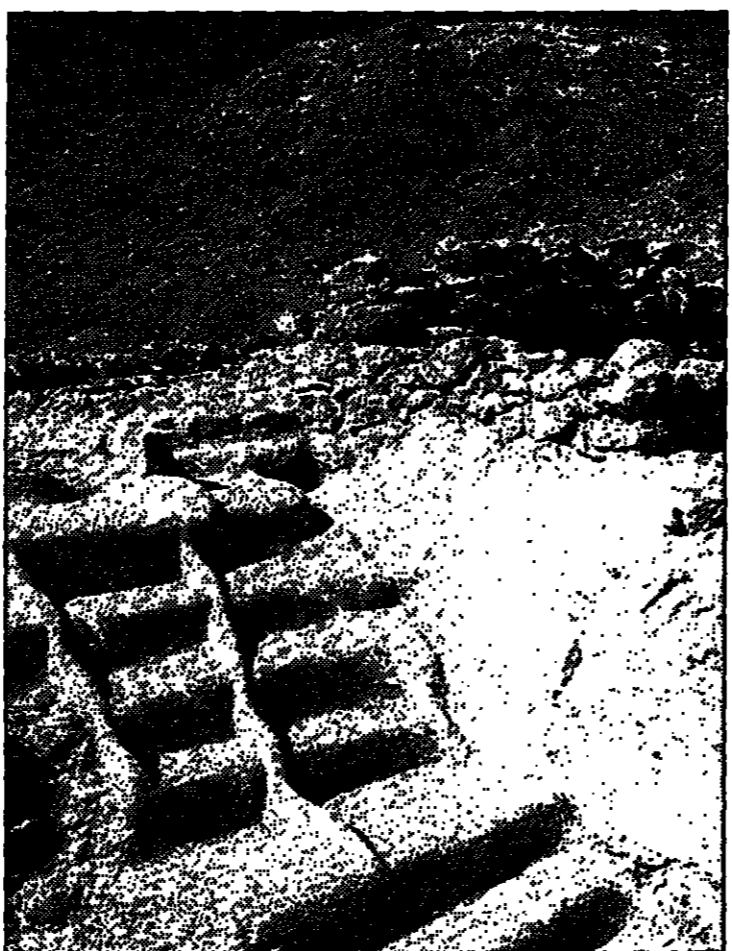
They were a community of Essenes, a movement which opposed the priestly establishment in Jerusalem, and their prolific writings expressed quasi-mystical interpretations of the Bible, a sense of impending apocalypse, and dedication to their own spiritual leader, rituals and collective functioning. The accounts of that

life, in such manuscripts as the Manual of Discipline, mesh with the evidence of the sparse ruins and the overall surroundings.

The cliffs looming above us to the west constituted the overwhelming reality for the members of the community. The harsh wilderness physically and symbolically blocked out Jerusalem, and was an expression of parity. On this stony crust between cliffs and a dead lake, where rain was rare, vegetation sparse and the heat pressed down like an iron lid, where one's energy was devoted to survival, this community attempted to live by religious and communal ideals that transcended personal goals, desires and needs.

The water channel snaking down from the cliffs to the settlement, for example, and the numerous cisterns and water conduits within the settlement, show the high degree of skill and cooperation utilized to develop a system which tapped the seasonal floods plummeting from the high hills.

From the central observation tower we can see the remains of the pottery workshop, where the jugs that protected the scrolls were probably shaped. Workshops also produced other crafts that supported the self-sustaining community. To the south, near the green line of vegetation at Ein Fash'ha, the Essenes tended date groves and other crops. Turning east, we see



Qumran National Park: If we linger until late in the day, we can watch the dusk settling as the Essenes did. They chanted and studied in isolation in the stillness of the wilderness.

(Ariel Jeruzolimski)

the cemetery which held about a thousand graves, dug over a period of perhaps 150-200 years. There are few females, confirming the existence of a community composed largely of single, celibate males.

Significantly, there is no trace of sleeping quarters; evidently the members slept in tents or huts outside the perimeter of the main settlement, or perhaps in low-lying caves. The sprinkling of sandal nails found along the paths leading to the caves indicates regular foot traffic.

If we linger until late in the day, we can watch the dusk settling as the Essenes did, watch the hawks arcing near the cliffs, the shifting

hues of the mountains beyond the Dead Sea and their reflection in the water. They could see the moonlight illuminate every boulder, and absorbed their observations of the stars into their cosmology. They chanted and studied in isolation, sinking into the engulfing stillness of the wilderness, then gathered for prayer, study, meals and work.

Their daily regimen, the signs of which can be found in the ruins around us, followed Jewish ritual and law, yet simultaneously set this community apart as "the true community of Israel" (as one scroll phrased it) as opposed to the "habitation of unjust men."

We see the kitchen, for example,

where the communal meals were prepared, meals which became part of a "spiritual temple" and a substitute for sacrifices. The tefillin worn during morning prayers (Qumran has yielded the oldest ones ever found) might vary in the texts they encased. Sundials found indicate that, using a solar calendar, the Qumran dates for festivals differed from those of the normative Jewish lunar calendar. And there was daily immersion before the communal meal, in the mikve, the remnants of which are still standing. This regular immersion, associated with the expiation of sin, has led some scholars to link the sect to John the Baptist.

The heart of Qumran beat in the central building which abuts the stone observation tower. Based on the bits of pens, broken writing tables and ostraca found here, it appears that the Dead Sea Scrolls were written here, in an upper-story scriptorium, attached to a reading room, classroom and library. Stand here and picture the scribes and students hunched over writing desks day after day, pouring their hearts into what they considered their holy work. Here they copied the books of the Bible (only the scroll of Esther is missing from the finds, but a complete copy of Isaiah was among the first discoveries), and wrote commentaries, codes of behavior, scathing criticisms of the Temple ritual, and the document detailing an apocalyptic vision of a war between the "sons of light" and the "sons of darkness."

And what were sect members thinking when they rolled and bound the scrolls, wrapped them in linen, placed them in jugs, and stored them in a series of caves?

These are the questions we ask ourselves as we walk southwards, to look across a ravine at two of the caves which held scrolls. Carved out of the soft sedimentary bank, these are the only man-made caves in the area. Why were they cut here, close to the settlement, when there are so many natural caves among the cliffs? No one knows.

And were the scrolls simply stored there, or were they hidden from the Roman legions advancing toward Ein Gedi and Masada? And if the scrolls were hidden, was the hiding an act of desperation or defiance?

Perhaps the members hiding these scrolls felt they were abandoning their life's work. Did they think they would return?

Or did they suspect that the scrolls would remain there for centuries after they and their settlement had disappeared? They couldn't have known that these scrolls — testimony to the richness, the divisiveness, the range of thought of first-century Judea — would lie in these caves for 2,000 years, to be found as another sovereign Jewish state was about to be born.

In an ironic juxtaposition, on the same November day in 1947 that — purchased by Professor E.L. Sukenik of the Hebrew University — some of these 2,000-year-old Jewish scrolls returned to Jewish hands, the UN passed the resolution approving the creation of a Jewish state.

Qumran National Park, an easy drive from Jerusalem, is also accessible by public transportation. Winter hours are 8-4 daily, 8-2 on Friday. Tel. (02) 994-2235.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

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Weekender Leisure

Something old to something new

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When a colleague, who is soon to be married abroad, asked me to recommend some bridal salons, one of my first comments to her was that I didn't envy her taking a wedding dress in her luggage and having to get it pressed later.

I remember when I went to Australia a couple of years ago for my cousin's wedding, how carefully her gown had been transported from the dressmaker's studio to her home only 10 minutes' drive away, and how quickly it was hung to ensure that it would be in perfect condition for the great day.

Because my colleague has only a few days at her disposal between the time she arrives in the US and the day of her wedding, she is reluctant to buy a gown there in case it requires time-consuming alterations. On the other hand, prices in New York are often a lot lower than those in Israel.

My suggestion to her was to try on gowns here to see what suits her, and once she knows what style looks best on her, she will waste far less time trying on other gowns in New York. And because there are half sizes in America, she may not require alterations at all.

"But I know what I want," she said. "Knowing what you want and finding what suits you is not exactly the same thing," I countered.

Most of us have fixed visions of ourselves as brides, and unless we are extremely wealthy, there's quite a gap between the dream and the reality. Moreover, our bridal images start to take shape when we're as young as three or four. By the time we do get married, our bodies have changed and sometimes so have our tastes and our attitudes.

While some brides feel that a wedding dress is so special that it is worth anything they can afford, others say that because a wedding dress is worn only once, it's a waste to spend a lot of money on it.

In Israel, because most apartments tend to be small and have limited storage space, many brides prefer to rent a gown, even though the difference in the cost between renting and buying is often minimal. Even so, there are many brides who want to keep this precious reminder of one of the most important days in their lives. Some brides, however, would prefer to have a dress that can be easily adapted for post-wedding use rather than simply confining it to mothballs.

There are several factors to take into account if the bride wants to get maximum value out of the dress. Unless she doesn't mind making white her formal color, she should choose a gown in a fabric which lends itself to dyeing. The design should not be too elaborate and should include either a jacket or a detachable skirt.

A long, slim-fitting dress with a belted overskirt is one versatile solution. The overskirt can later serve as a cape. Alternately, if the bride wants to show off her figure and doesn't want a full skirt, a matching long-sleeved jacket will give the dress a completely different look. If the dress is sleeveless or strapless, the jacket can be worn for the bridal ceremony and removed afterwards. Silk taffeta jackets in different colors and styles can enhance the gown on future occasions.

It's rare for a bride to go shopping for a gown without a relative or friend in tow, and while their advice may often be valuable, remember it's not their wedding, it's hers. If the bride-to-be really has her heart set on something, she should not let anyone else talk her out of it unless she's genuinely convinced that it doesn't flatter her at all.

A good idea would be to take a Polaroid camera along so the bride can be photographed, back and front, in order to see her non-mirror image. Another option is to take an ordinary camera. The prints can be developed within an hour, and the bride can then return to the salon after she's seen the photos.



Bridge The Power of Eights

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North
♠ K Q
♥ A 10 6 3
♦ J 2
♣ K Q J 8 3

West
♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ K J 8 7 5
♦ Q 10
♣ 7 2

East
♠ 9 6 3
♥ 9
♦ A K 9 7 4
♣ 10 9 6 5

South
♠ A J 10 4
♥ Q 4 2
♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	1♦	1♣
pass	2♥	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	4♣
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦ Q

Often a player will buttonhole me with a memorable bridge hand. "I picked up a hand with eight solid spades, etc." Almost inevitably, the hand includes some long, strong suit. Indeed, most hands at the table are remembered for their powerful strength or distribution, while the less-obvious beauty of the game is often forgotten — lowly spotcards that late in the hand can play a subtle yet crucial role. Sometimes a contract appears to have no chance, but then suddenly a spotcard saves the day, shedding its light in what otherwise would have been a bridge player's darkest moment. Sometimes the reverse is true.

A good example of this Hanukka-type scenario is this week's deal. Suppose you were the declarer in the North seat in a contract of three notrump.

This is the normal contract if North opens the bidding one notrump and South uses Stayman, then places the contract in three notrump. The opening lead against you is the king of diamonds from the East seat, and all seems lost. But then suddenly the 10 of diamonds appears under the king. On the ace of diamonds, which is led at trick two, the queen of diamonds appears as you follow with the jack. Then the nine of diamonds is cashed and, lo and behold, the eight of diamonds in dummy is now high. You make 10

tricks! (Of course, if East leads a low diamond at trick one, three notrump will be defeated.) When the deal was actually played (this past August in Winnipeg, in the Canadian Women's Team Championship), the real North-South in our diagram were Marylou Bert (North) and June Pocock (South). They avoided the three-notrump contract and reached instead the unusual contract of four spades on a four-two trump fit. Normally an eight-card fit is recommended for a trump suit, and sometimes a seven-card fit is satisfactory. But for the declaring side to hold fewer trumps than the defenders is almost never seen. Yet the bidding was logical. After the one-club opening bid by North, East over-called one diamond and South bid one spade. North reversed to two hearts and South, without strong support for either of his partner's suits and without a diamond stopper, bid three diamonds, asking her partner to bid three notrump if she held a diamond stopper. North supported spades instead (with the king-queen doubleton) and South placed the contract in game.

West led the queen of diamonds, and it appeared to declarer that she was about to achieve a great result. If the defense continued diamonds, she could ruff the third round in dummy with the queen of spades, cash the king of spades, return to hand with the ace of clubs, draw the trumps (assuming they broke 4-3) and run the club suit. That would result in 11 tricks! But the power of an eight-spot this time worked against her, snuffing out her happiest dream come true.

East overtook the queen of diamonds with the king on the first trick and switched to the 10 of clubs. This strange play planted a worried thought in the mind of declarer: East must have the singleton 10 of clubs. With this in mind, declarer won the trick with the ace of clubs, cashed four rounds of spades, and led the four of clubs toward dummy's K-Q-J-8. When West followed low, declarer put in dummy's 8, playing West for an original holding of 9-7-6-5-2. East won her nine of clubs and cashed two more diamond tricks to set the contract. It was a terrible ending for declarer, but the good news was that her team won the event and she was left with an exciting story to tell her grandchildren.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@neviston.net.il.

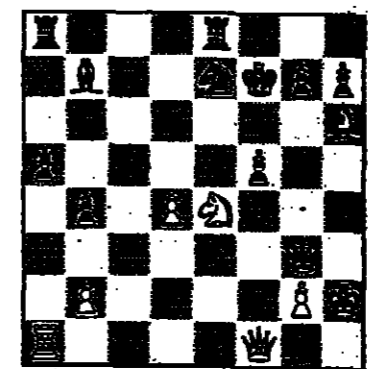
Chess

A flawed genius

By NIGEL SHORT

Exactly why I should wish to do a favor to publishers who never send me review copies is beyond me, but *Fire on Board*, by Alexei Shirov, is quite the best chess book I have seen this year. Shirov (an ethnic Russian from Latvia who is married to an Argentinian and resides in Spain) is a brilliant tactician with a phenomenal imagination. His genius is flawed however — a stubborn adherence to dubious opening variations being one of his weaknesses — and so few people imagine him living up to his original promise. Still his raw talent, while perhaps not giving Kasparov too many sleepless nights, is amply sufficient to overcome most players; for instance, he has simply crushed me on the last four occasions we met.

This early game shows him at his aggressive best.



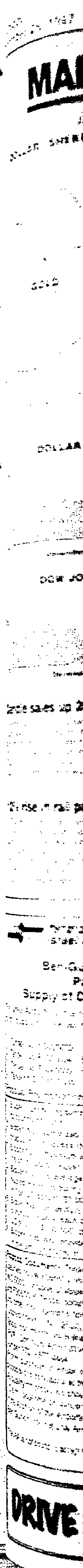
White: Shirov
Black: Nikolenko
Moscow, 1991

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. a5 Nf8 5. Nce2. Enabling White to support his pawn chain with c3. The drawback is that the move

obstructs his development and thus is time-consuming. 5...c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. f4 b5 8. a3 a5? 9. Squeandering a tempo needlessly. 8...cxd4! 9. Nxd4 Nxd4 10. Qxd4? was the continuation in a later Shirov game against Bareev, but I guess most normal human beings would have correctly preferred the pawn capture. 9. Nc3 b4 10. axb4 cxb4 11. f5! Energetic and precise. 11...exf5 12. Nf4 Nb6 13. Bb5 Bb7 14. e6. The logical consequence of White's 11th move. The Black king will be come exposed. 14...Bd6 15. exf7+ Kxf7 16. Q-d0 Re8 17. Nxd5! Bam 1 17...Bxb2+! Responding well to the challenge. The obvious capture of the knight would have succumbed to a sacrificial onslaught. 17...Nxd5 18. Ng5+ Kg6 (18...Kg8 loses progressively) 19. Qh5 h6 20. Qf7+ Kh8 21. Qxb7 19. Rxf5!! Kxf5 20. Bd3+ Kf6 21. Qf3+ Nf4 22. Bxf4 with a devastating attack. 18. Kxh2 Qxd5 19. e4! Not wasting any time by retreating. 19...Nxe4 20. Ng5+ Kg6 21. Bxc4 Qxc4 22. Qf3 Rf8? It is only here that the decisive mistake happens. It was still possible to defend with 22...Ne7! when Alexei intended 23. Qg3 Qxf1 24. Ne4+ Kf7 25. Bb6. See diagram.

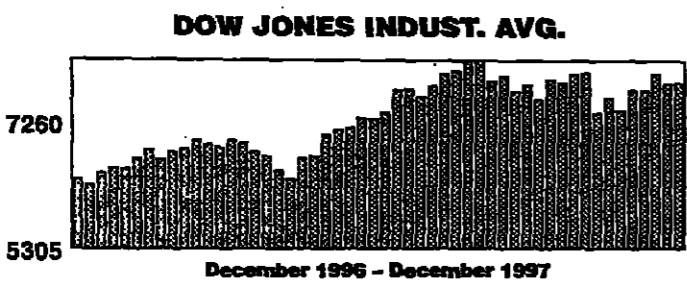
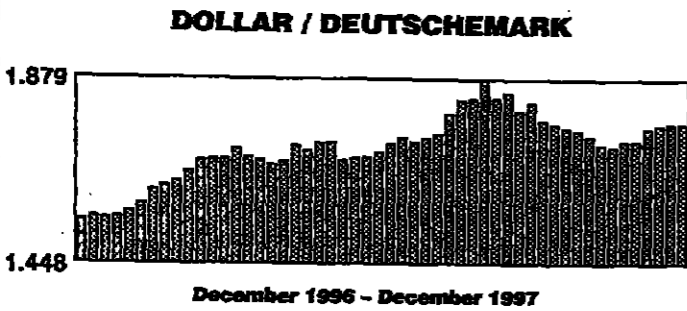
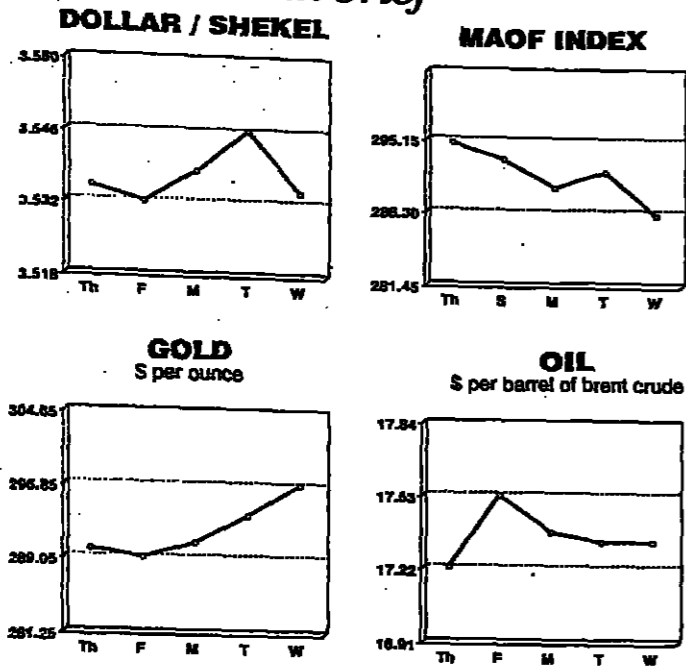
This looks fairly promising until one considers 25...Qf4!! (found by Fritz 4, and liable to be overlooked by carbon-based players) after which the game is unclear, e.g., 26. Bxf4 Bxc4 27. Be5 Rg8. 23. Qg3! The threatened discovered check is worth a rook. 23...Qxf1 24. Ne6+ Kf7 25. d5! Rg8 26. Qc7+ Kg6 27. dxc6 Bc8 A sad necessity. 28. Nf4+ Kf6 29. Qd6+ Kf7 30. Qd5+ Kf8 31. Be3! If the queen now captures the rook on a1, then 32. Be5+ leads to mate next move.

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MARKETS

in brief



Candle sales up 20%

Some 170 million Israeli candles were sold in the build up to Hanukka, according to the Manufacturers Association. This figure represents a 20 percent increase on last year's total. Receipts from sales will total an estimated NIS 8 million to NIS 10m. The association said the latest batch of candles are of a superior quality to previous years. The industry employs 200 people.

David Harris

12% rise in rail passengers

The number of rail passengers in November totaled 530,000, a 12 percent rise on the equivalent figure last year, said a statement from Israel Railways. The authority expects the number of rail users to pass the six million mark this year - the fifth consecutive year in which the overall figure has increased. The key increases in usage have been on the Tel Aviv-Rehovot-Ashdod and Haifa area routes.

David Harris

Diamond exports to Asia fall by \$600m.

Diamond bourse to close Fridays due to industry crisis

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Diamond exports to Southeast Asia fell recently by 30-40 percent, which will translate into a loss of more than \$600 million on an annual basis, Tzafir Anbar, the diamond controller in the Ministry of Industry and Trade said yesterday. According to figures the Ministry of Industry and Trade published, exports of polished diamonds in 1996 amounted to a gross \$5.3 billion, which is about 25% of the total value of Israeli goods exported.

Industry sources say that tumbling currencies, higher interest rates and slower economic growth in Southeast Asia and an economic slowdown in Japan are expected to lead to a sharp decline in diamond exports next year.

The decrease in sales to Southeast

Asia have had a negative impact on the cash flow of the whole diamond industry because the Asian customers usually pay in cash.

"My Asian customers who paid the cash were making up for the American clients who buy on credit," said one trader. "The fact that the cash flows have slowed makes the banks nervous, which in turn hurts the whole industry."

Diamond dealers complained that exports to the Far East, which account for 40% of the world diamond sales, fell dramatically during the last three months.

"The mood in Asia is negative and nobody wants to buy luxury products now," said one diamond trader.

Anbar said that exports to Japan have been falling gradually since the end of last year.

"During the last few months the decline in exports to Japan increased

by 10% each month," he said.

Exports of polished diamonds to Japan, which until recently represented 16-17% of total exports, plunged 59% in November to only \$26m, compared with \$63m in the same period in 1996. During the first 11 months of the year, exports fell 25% to \$481m from \$641m in the January-November period last year.

Exports to Hong Kong, the second-largest importer in Asia, fell 50% in November to \$28m, from \$57m in the same month last year. During the first 11 months of 1997, exports to Hong Kong actually rose to \$651m, from \$615m a year ago. The rise is mainly attributed to a sharp rise in the first months of the year.

Anbar said that losses were partly offset by a rise in exports to the US, which currently imports

almost 55% of the Israeli output.

Industry sources said that stocks are rising and prices are decreasing. The Israel Diamond Manufacturers Association said yesterday that the situation has worsened because of the Asian turmoil. The association said that during the last year 2,000 workers left the industry, raising the number of layoffs during the last several years to 7,000.

The association said that the closing of many manufacturing plants led to the "shrinking of the industry to worrying levels." It should be noted, however, that manufacturers were closing plants before the Asian crisis and moving them to East Asian countries where workers get lower wages.

In a statement, the executive committee of the association recommended that manufacturers

close plants on Fridays and shorten workdays. In addition, from now on the diamond exchange will close its trading hall on Fridays.

The economic slowdown in Asia is felt all over the diamond industry. Last week the world's leading diamond organization, De Beers, said that second-half 1997 sales of its uncut diamonds slumped 16% to \$1.76 billion compared with the same period last year, amid the Asian crises. De Beers described the difference between the first and second halves of the year as a "dramatic contrast."

Industry sources predict that the situation will worsen next year with diamond exports falling further and leading to higher losses.

"We don't predict that the situation will improve in the near term or next year," Anbar said.



Palestinian Authority Trade and Economic Affairs Minister Maher Elmatzri (left) speaks to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday in Sharansky's office.

PA rejects proposal for joint industrial zone

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Trade and Economic Affairs Minister Maher Elmatzri yesterday rejected an Israeli proposal to set up a joint administration to run Palestinian and Israeli industrial zones in the West Bank.

"We know Israel's intention is to confiscate more land in the West Bank and appropriate it to the set-

lements for industrial expansion and that is why we rejected their offer," Elmatzri said, adding that the existence of industrial zones in areas under Palestinian control are of no concern to Israel and are the PA's sole responsibility.

On Tuesday, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky suggested to Elmatzri that Israel and the PA collaborate on establishing trade zones that would encompass Jewish and Arab areas in the West

Bank, ministry spokeswoman Chaya Perry said. Sharansky told Elmatzri such a zone could be created around Ariel and Nablus because of their close proximity.

During the meeting, the two ministers also discussed the Karmi Industrial Park. Perry said, Elmatzri expressed his satisfaction at the way discussions were developing and said he hoped that the security issues relating to the park's establishment will be

solved soon. The Karmi park is scheduled to open within the next few months.

Elmatzri added that discussions between the two sides concerning the park will continue. A special committee will take part in the discussions and will be headed by Palestinian official Adnan Samaram, he said.

Sharansky's aide Roman Polansky called the Palestinian's decision regrettable.

ABSE banking group to operate in Israel

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The South African banking group ABSE intends to start operating in the Israeli capital market, its local subsidiary said yesterday. The ABSE group includes South Africa's four largest commercial

banks: Allied Bank; Trust Bank; United Bank; and Volkskas Bank. Other members include Bankfin, Mib Bank and Citifin.

In a statement, Giuseppe Cuicci, CEO of ABSE's subsidiary ABSE Offshore (Jersey), said that the bank decided to enter Israel

because the Israeli economy offers business opportunities to international financial bodies.

"This is a growing market and we recognize high potential for business activity," he said.

The company recently took control of Israeli company Nexus Management, which offers services to foreign investors.

"It's the biggest banking group in South Africa, with total assets of \$30 billion," said Colin Shachat, managing director of Nexus Management.

He said that the group started its international activity recently following the relaxation of exchange controls in South Africa. The group made acquisitions in seven countries - the US, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Man Islands, China and Singapore.

Shachat said that the company is looking to get involved in asset management. He added that in the long run the group also would be interested in investment banking, putting deals together and financing.

Propper: Interest rates can't be slashed

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and news agencies

In an unexpected move, Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper yesterday said that in light of difficulties in the Asian market, Israel can not afford to slash interest rates.

"Until a few months ago I believed a drastic reduction in interest rates would help the economy," Propper said during the association's annual press conference on the state of the economy. "But since the crisis in Southeast Asia erupted, a drastic cut is no longer possible."

Propper has repeatedly called on the Bank of Israel to abandon its strict anti-inflationary monetary policy and lower interest rates by 1-2 percent. The base lending rate is currently at 13.4%.

Such a move now, however, would cause a run on capital that would destabilize the economy, Propper said, adding that the central bank should lower rates incrementally.

Propper said Israel is now in a period of stagnation and predicted that growth will total 2.4% in 1998, compared to a predicted 2% this year, and unemployment will rise to 10% next year. The Treasury previously said the jobless rate will total 7.9% next year.

Propper said that the ills affecting the low-tech sector will spread to the high-tech sector. Industrial investment will fall by 10% next year, Propper said, which will hurt all the industries as well as high-tech research and development.

He also said that changes in the investment law are discouraging investors from investing in Israel. Last year the government cut investment aid grants from 34% to 24% in the periphery.

In order to return the economy to 5%-6% growth, Propper said that the government and the Bank of Israel should decrease public spending, increase the size of the grants offered to investors, continue privatizing, increase competition by breaking up monopolies and take measures to lower interest rates while safeguarding exports' profitability.

Propper also said that the economy should be ready to tolerate 10% inflation.

Bankers Trust affiliate buys 11% stake in Kardan project

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

FIC Globe, an affiliate of Bankers Trust, will purchase a 10.7 percent stake in a Polish real estate corporation jointly owned by Kardan Real Estate, a subsidiary of Kardan Ltd., and an undisclosed Dutch concern, Kardan Ltd. recently announced in a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

According to the announcement, the Polish entity will sell the shares to US-based FIC Globe in exchange for \$12 million. Kardan said it expects to post a net profit of NIS 8m. as a result of the transaction.

Bankers Trust said it would offer the Polish company \$5m. over the next five years. If the company takes the loan during the next three years, Bankers Trust can exchange the loan for shares.

If Bankers Trust converts the total amount of the available loan

to shares, FIC Globe's and Bankers Trust's stake in the Polish company would total 16.67%.

The agreement stipulates that FIC Globe has the right to participate in Kardan Real Estate's property investments in Eastern Europe.

Kardan entered the Polish market four years ago and now has several projects in Warsaw, including office buildings, commercial centers and housing complexes.

Kardan is currently planning more projects, a source close to the company said.

רשות שדות התעופה בארץ
Israel Airports Authority

Ben-Gurion 2000 Project
Public Tender
Supply of Construction Materials

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests separate proposals for the supply of materials for the new Ben-Gurion 2000 Project.

- Tender No. F 3020033 Supply of Toilet Accessories
- Tender No. F3030034 Supply of Ceramic Tiles
- Tender No. F3040035 Supply of Toilet Fixtures
- Tender No. F3050036 Supply of Hardware for Doors and Frames

Proposal Pre-conditions:

- Bidder must be registered in Israel or recognized as a legal entity in its country of origin.
- Bidder is an authorized representative of the manufacturer(s) of the product(s) it proposes in its proposal.
- Bidder has a minimum of five (5) years' experience in the supply of the construction related products.
- Bidder's annual average gross revenue in the supply of construction-related materials during the last three (3) years is a minimum of one million US dollars (\$1,000,000).
- Bidder has successfully fulfilled and completed a minimum of two (2) purchase orders, each of a minimum value of one hundred thousand US dollars (\$100,000) during the last three (3) years.
- Bidder must also provide, as part of the proposal, a bank guarantee in the amount stated in the respective tender documents.

Proposal Documents: Tender documents may be obtained until the date specified below against a non-refundable payment of five thousand shekels (NIS 5000) inclusive of Value Added Tax, for Tenders F3020033, F3030034, and F3050036. Tender documents for Tender F3040035 may be obtained until time of bid against a non-refundable payment of two thousand five hundred shekels (NIS 2500), inclusive of Value Added Tax. Tender documents are available by contacting the Project Management Firm (PMF), Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yoshepe at telephone number 972-3-977-4454. Prior to purchase of tender documents, bidders may review their content and proposal pre-conditions at the location and during the times indicated above. All qualifying proposals should be delivered in sealed envelopes not later than 10 a.m. local time on January 11, 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest proposal or any other proposal whatsoever.

Israel Ports and Railways Authority
Request for Information

CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATIONS SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

The Israel Ports and Railways Authority (IPRA) is interested in receiving information from prospective suppliers of Terminal Operations System Software for use in Haifa and/or Ashdod Ports in Israel.

The information should include:

- A description of the software system features and modules, including the system's hardware and software topology.
- A list of terminals using the potential supplier's system, including:
 - Most recent annual throughput (in boxes and TEU) at each terminal;
 - Number of shipping lines served by each terminal;
 - Container stacking equipment employed at each terminal;
 - Contact Name at the terminal, including telephone and fax.
- An indication of the general range of prices for the system/modules.

Please send the information, no later than March 1, 1998 to:
Mr. Amiram Heideker, Chief Information Officer
Israel Ports and Railways Authority
74 Petach Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, Israel 67215
Fax: +972-3-565-7046, E-Mail: Amiramh@israports.org.il

This Request for Information does not constitute the solicitation of tenders from prospective suppliers in any manner whatsoever. The IPRA retains the full right to procure or not to procure any such system or part thereof in accordance with its internal regulations and the appropriate laws. The IPRA enters into no obligations in any form with regard to the receipt of any such information. All expenses relating to the supply of information, including the cost of returning any materials, shall be borne by the prospective supplier.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

JOIN US TELEBANK
DIAL 09-5127 11 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

PRIME פריים
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 23.12.97
Purchase Price: 118.37
Redemption Price: 116.84

LEUMI PIA
A Member of Bank Leumi Group

TARGET טרגט
(מסדה)
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 23.12.97
Purchase Price: 127.85
Redemption Price: 126.02

LEUMI PIA
A Member of Bank Leumi Group

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various stock prices and their changes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Tel Aviv stock prices and their changes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing New York Market Indexes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Other Market Indexes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Dollar Crossrates (US).

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing US Commodities.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing London stock prices and their changes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Paris stock prices and their changes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Frankfurt stock prices and their changes.

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 24-DEC-97)

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing London Commodities.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Spot Market Metals (US).

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing New York Metal Futures.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing London Metal Fixes.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing London Metal Fixes (continued).

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 24-DEC-97)

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Comstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

Pacific Mediterranean Group Stock broking, Equity & macro research, Money management, Corporate finance.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns: Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes Shkel Foreign Exchange Rates and CHECKS AND TRANSFERS.

TASE falls after declines in NY, Asia

Tel Aviv

Stocks closed down following declines on Wall Street yesterday and a day after a Tadiran Ltd. subsidiary said weakness in Asian markets will push down fourth-quarter net income and sales.

Europe

UK stocks fell, led by banks such as Barclays Plc and Lloyds TSB Group Plc, after US stocks tumbled on concern South Korea may default on its foreign debts.

STOCKS

Maof 289.75 v 1.42% Dow Jones 7691 v 0.41% FTSE 5013.9 v 0.71% Nikkei 14924.98 a 0.85%

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks edged lower yesterday in lifeless trading as investors played it safe during an abbreviated Christmas Eve session.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose, led by electronics makers such as Sony Corp., as investors targeted exporters with global operations, hoping a weaker yen will give them a pricing edge in overseas markets.

Dollar little changed in pre-holiday trading

The dollar was little changed yesterday against major currencies as markets in Europe closed early and trading desks in New York were short-staffed ahead of the Christmas holidays.

Still, South Korea's won rose for the first time in five days after the World Bank delivered \$3 billion of emergency aid to help the nation pay off mounting foreign currency debt.

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.534 v 0.06% Basket 3.7976 a 0.03% Mark 1.9923 a 0.14% Sterling 5.8965 a 0.1%

Japan's Finance Ministry said it will postpone punishing banks whose capital-to-asset ratios don't meet minimum domestic standards.

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Platinum rises as supply seen limited

Precious metals. Platinum rose to its highest price for eight days as a drop in consumption in Japan, the world's largest market for the precious metal, isn't expected to be enough to undermine expectations that global demand will outstrip supply next year.

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COMMODITIES

Gold \$296.15 a 2.1% Crude Oil \$17.33 no change CRB 233.1 a 1.15%

Crude oil closed unchanged after a weekly inventory report issued by the American Petroleum Institute showed a decline in US crude oil supplies.

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US Bonds fall on hopes Asia may stabilize

US bonds fell yesterday for the first time in five days after Korea said it can pay its immediate debts and will get \$10 billion in international aid sooner than expected.

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BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 5.9 a 0.03

The news from Korea is "hurting" US bonds by alleviating a little of the stress in Asia, said Andrew Brenner, head of global fixed-income trading at Fimat USA Inc.

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BUDGET

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CHRISTMAS

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WHERE TO GO

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES. Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Leab Yaffe, 679-1901; Baitan, Salah e-Din, 827-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0188; Dar Adawa, Herods Gate, 628-2058.

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*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Hannuka cheer

Hapoel Jerusalem's star point guard, Adi Gordon, is greeted with enthusiasm by Tehila Ziegel at the Hanukkah School for the Handicapped in the capital. Hapoel's players visited the school yesterday to celebrate Hannuka.

(Brian Heddler)

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes teams like Dallas, Cleveland, Charlotte, Boston, and Chicago.

NBA section containing various basketball game results and player statistics.

Detroit's Eriksson comes up a winner once again

BUFFALO (AP) - Defenseman Anders Eriksson scored a game-winning goal for the second straight night, leading the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday night. Eriksson's goal with 1:48 left in the second period snapped a 1-1 tie, and Kirk Maltby scored on a hard slap shot on the third period as the Red Wings won their third straight. Darren McCarty also scored for Detroit, which stopped Sabres goalie Dominik Hasek's shutout streak at two games. Chris Osgood made 26 saves for the Red Wings. Derek Plante scored for Buffalo.

Steve Sullivan, Mathieu Schneider and Kris King also scored for the Maple Leafs. Doug Weight, Greg de Vries, Mike Grier and Ryan Smyth scored for Edmonton, which was playing its third game in four nights. Edmonton's Bryan Marchment played after the NHL decided not to suspend him for a hit on Greg Adams of the Dallas Stars. Adams is expected to miss 4-6 weeks because of a sprained knee. Avalanche 5, Kings 1. Jari Kurri scored his 600th goal and home team Colorado added four second-period goals to beat Los Angeles. Kurri is the eighth player in NHL history to score 600 goals and the sixth with 600 goals and 800 assists. Peter Forsberg, Claude Lemieux, Eric Lacroix and Uwe Krupp added goals for Colorado and Patrick Roy made 19 saves. Rob Blake scored for Los Angeles. Coyotes 2, Flames 2, OT. At Phoenix, Ed Ward scored his first goal of the season with 1:16 remaining for Calgary. Defenseman Michel Petit scored twice and Nikolai Khabibulin made 26 saves for the Coyotes, who are winless in their last six home games (0-3-3) and in 10 of their last 11 games overall (1-5-5). Derek Morris also scored for the

Table showing NHL Eastern Conference standings for various teams like Philadelphia, New Jersey, Washington, NY Islanders, and Florida.

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES section listing various services and their prices, including weekly and monthly rates.

DWELLINGS section listing real estate properties for sale or rent in the Jerusalem area.

DWELLINGS section listing real estate properties for sale or rent in the Jerusalem area.

SITUATIONS VACANT section listing job openings in various fields.

VEHICLES section listing cars for sale or lease.

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VEHICLES section listing cars for sale or lease.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY CLASSIFIED OFFER! We want your used car classified ad... And that isn't all... Save another 10%!



CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Lurgies festival in Jerusalem features tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown...



Eli Jaffe leads the premiere of Raymond Goldstein's Hanukka Cantata in Jerusalem, tomorrow.

SOUL MUSIC

HELEN KAYE

Gospel singer Sammie Rushing appears with local soul-singer Shvichya Bat-Israel...

It's the turn of Jewish soul to be on stage with the gifted musicians of Eve's Daughters...

HANUKKA

HELEN KAYE

And the shows go on. Festival with Hani...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News Flash 6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Dog Channel - Hanukka program

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther 16:00 The Big Bang

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting Point 19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

16:30 News Flash 16:31 Lighting of the third Hanukka candle

CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's programs 8:20 This Morning

CHANNEL 2

7:00 Today's programs 7:15 This Morning

CHANNEL 2

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PRIME TIME TV

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Nahmias and all the Children's Channel favorites are at the Tel Aviv Sports Stadium today and tomorrow...

All shows are in Hebrew. There are from three to five performances today through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

WEATHER section with a map of Israel and weather forecasts for various cities.

WINNING CARDS section featuring a graphic of playing cards and text about daily chance drawings.

Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST advertisement with contact information.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues and solutions. Includes sections for Across, Down, and Quick Crossword.

JORDANTV

13:00 Holy Koran 13:10 The Wind 14:30 Big Brother Jake

MOVIES

BEERSHEBA GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below...

MOVIES

BEERSHEBA GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below...

MOVIES

BEERSHEBA GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below... GIL #6440771 Fire Down Below...

Inside

Eriksson wins for Detroit

Page 18

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Premiership: Floodlight failure was not a betting coup

LONDON (Reuters) - Reports linking floodlight failures to a Far East betting ring were dismissed as conjecture by the English premier league yesterday.

The Wimbledon-Arsenal match on Monday was the third premier league clash this season to be abandoned when the floodlights failed. The score at the time was 0-0.

A report in the *Daily Express* yesterday suggested a Far East gambling group was responsible for sabotaging the match.

But premier league spokesman Mike Lee said: "Currently, there is nothing that substantiates these stories." He said the evidence pointed to "technical failure."

Police are to check to see if any equipment was tampered with.

The *Express* quoted a former London spread-betting operator as saying: "This is nothing to do with gambling in this country, this is big Far East stuff."

"I was told there was no way Arsenal would be allowed to win on the night. I was told it might be another West Ham."

West Ham had pulled back from 2-0 down to draw level with Crystal Palace in November when the floodlights failed.

The operator was quoted as saying: "The bookmakers did not want a West Ham win. As soon as West Ham leveled at 2-2 the lights went out." He said syndicates target one-off matches in midweek because betting on a single game is high.

Phil Jackson quickest to reach 500-win mark

CHICAGO (AP) - Phil Jackson reached the 500-victory mark faster than any coach in NBA history as his Chicago Bulls got 27 points from Michael Jordan and a season-high 25 rebounds from Dennis Rodman to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 94-89 Tuesday night.

Jackson got No. 500 in his 682nd game - one earlier than Pat Riley accomplished the feat.

Rodney Rogers scored 20 points and Darrick Martin 19 for the Clippers, who led for most of the night before losing for the seventh time in eight games.

Spurs 91, Pacers 79
David Robinson scored a season-high 39 points to lead host San Antonio over Indiana as the Spurs snapped the Pacers' six-game winning streak.

The Spurs won their sixth straight as Robinson and Tim Duncan dominated inside. Duncan added 18 points and 17 rebounds and Robinson pulled down 12 boards.

Indiana, which had its six-game winning streak snapped, was led by Reggie Miller with 25 points. Rik Smits added 14.

Celtics 102, Hornets 96
In Boston, Ron Mercer had career-highs of 28 points and eight rebounds as Boston's bench made up for Antoine Walker's poor shooting and led the Celtics their fourth consecutive win.

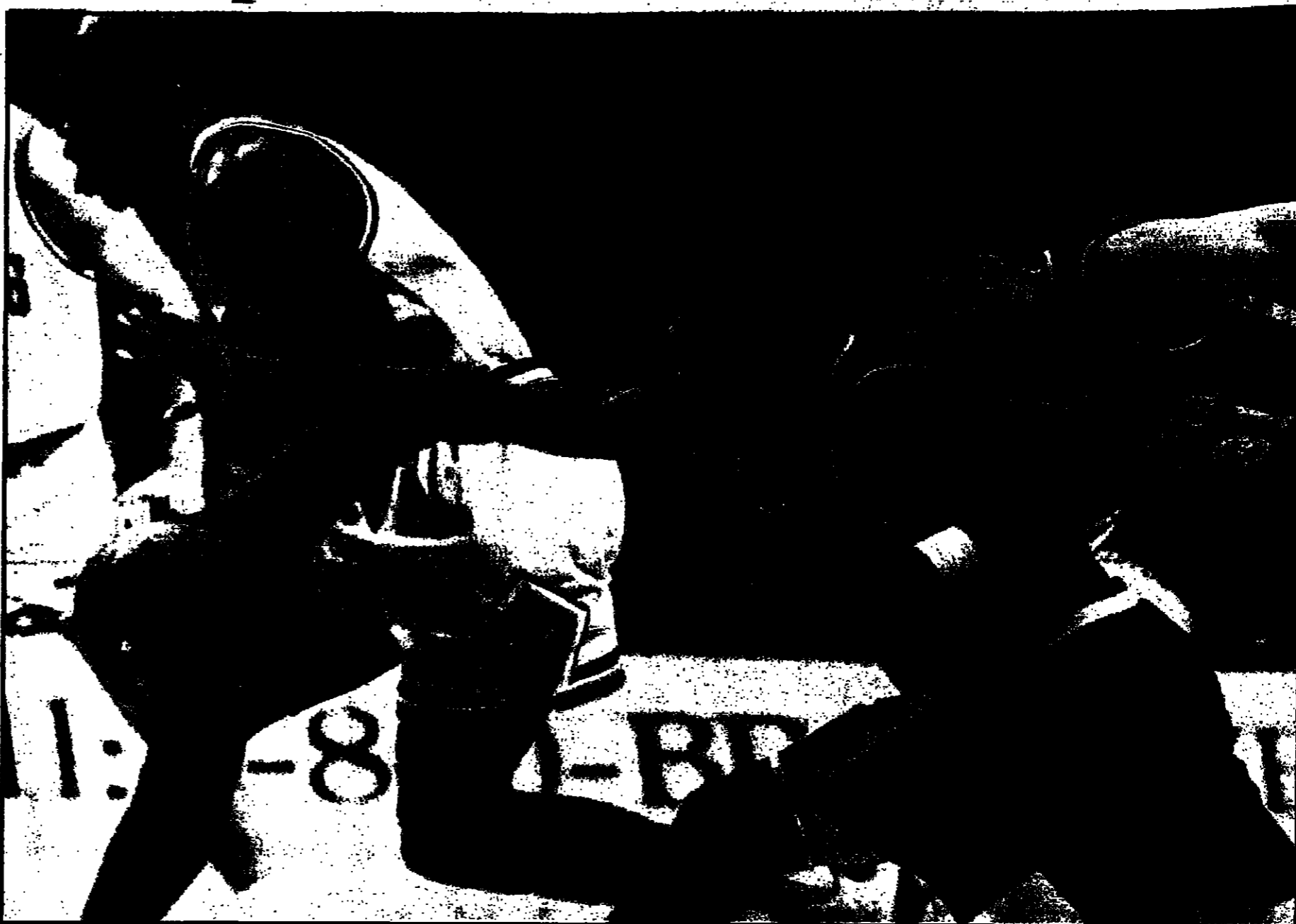
Walker, who led the Celtics in scoring in 19 of their first 24 games, shot just 3-of-21. But Dana Barros pitched in with 18 points and even Greg Minor - the last player on the Celtics' bench - scored four consecutive points in an 11-2 run that essentially decided the game.

Glen Rice had 23 points and Bobby Phills added a season-high 22 for the Hornets.

Cavaliers 99, Mavericks 85
Rookies Derek Anderson, Cedric Henderson and Brevin Knight had strong games and Cleveland outscored Dallas 32-8 in the third quarter in Cleveland.

Anderson scored a season-high 24 points, Henderson had a season-high 20 and Knight had 14 points and 15 assists for the Cavs, who sent the Mavericks to their 10th consecutive loss.

Michael Finley scored 29 for Dallas, which used an 18-7 run at the start of the fourth quarter to pull to 80-75. A steal and 15-foot jumper by Wesley Person helped Cleveland regain command.



UNSTOPPABLE - Michael Jordan drives around Darrick Martin of the LA Clippers in the Bulls' 94-89 win in Chicago on Tuesday night.

(Reuters)

Timberwolves 112, Sonics 103
In Seattle, Stephen Marbury scored 35 points, including eight 3-pointers, and Minnesota broke a record 26-game losing streak to Seattle.

Seattle's 26-game winning streak against the Timberwolves over six seasons was an NBA record by one team against another.

Brian Grant added 17 points and 12 rebounds against his former team, and Kenny Anderson also scored 17. The Blazers out-

bounded the Kings 62-40, including 19 offensive boards.

Warriors 87, Nuggets 75
At Oakland, California, Donyell Marshall scored 20 points, including five during a decisive 15-0 surge, and Golden State held Denver to seven fourth-quarter points.

The seven points were a franchise low for a quarter. The Nuggets' previous low was eight points in the second quarter against Detroit on Dec. 9.

Eastern Conference
Atlantic Division
Miami 17 8 .590 -
New York 18 11 .613 2
Orlando 16 11 .593 2
New Jersey 14 11 .560 3
Boston 13 12 .520 4
Washington 14 14 .500 4 1/2
Philadelphia 6 19 .240 11

Central Division
Atlanta 19 8 .704 -
Chicago 17 9 .654 1 1/2
Cleveland 17 9 .654 1 1/2
Indiana 17 9 .654 1 1/2
Charlotte 18 10 .615 2 1/2
Detroit 13 15 .464 6 1/2
Milwaukee 12 14 .462 6 1/2
Toronto 3 24 .111 16

Western Conference
Midwest Division
San Antonio 18 10 .615 -
Utah 16 10 .615 -
Houston 14 9 .608 1/2
Minnesota 12 14 .462 4
Vancouver 10 17 .370 6 1/2
Dallas 5 22 .185 11 1/2
Denver 2 23 .080 13 1/2

Pacific Division
LA Lakers 21 6 .778 -
Seattle 21 6 .778 -
Phoenix 16 8 .667 3 1/2
Portland 15 10 .600 5
Sacramento 10 18 .357 11 1/2
Golden State 6 18 .240 14
LA Clippers 5 23 .179 16 1/2

Premier league top three could widen gap

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United, Blackburn and Chelsea, the English premier league's three leading clubs, could put more daylight between themselves and the rest over the Christmas weekend.

United face a home match against 19th-placed Everton tomorrow and an away game against 16th-placed Coventry on Sunday, two more matches which should not trouble the pacemakers unduly.

While the depth and quality of the league champions' resources has enabled them to offset the absence of injured defenders David May and Denis Irwin, Everton's shortage of firepower is likely to be less easily overcome.

They have Duncan Ferguson suspended and Gary Speed, scorer of their goal in a 1-0 away win over Leicester last weekend, doubtful with an ankle injury sustained in training.

Blackburn, doggedly hanging on to United's tail since their 4-0 November 30 defeat by the champions, visit Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow and entertain Crystal Palace on Sunday and will be boosted by the return of striker Chris Sutton from suspension.

Roy Hodgson's side have won their three matches since that setback to remain four points back.

Chelsea, perhaps the most logical threat to United with their host of international stars, have a slightly tougher task than the two clubs above them when they entertain mid-table Wimbledon tomorrow.

Chelsea's second match on the holiday weekend program is away to Southampton on Monday night.

Fourth-placed Leeds United, four points behind Chelsea, face the prospect of a visit to Liverpool tomorrow and then follow up with a home match against Aston Villa on Sunday and could find themselves further off the pace entering 1998.

Forest sue Anderlecht over bribery scandal

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - English first division Nottingham Forest and 16 former players have started court action against Anderlecht over the 1984 UEFA Cup bribery scandal.

"The writ has been served," Forest's Belgian lawyer Filip Goemans said yesterday. "We had set today as the deadline but since we did not get a positive reaction, I was ordered to issue a summons."

The Belgian club's former chairman Constant Vanden Stock admitted in September having paid one million Belgian francs (\$27,000) as a "loan" to the Spanish referee in the second leg of the 1984 UEFA Cup semifinal which they won 3-0.

Forest, who had won the first leg 2-0, had a goal controversially dis-

allowed in the return leg. Goemans said Forest had tried for three months to reach a financial settlement.

"But Anderlecht stick to their point of view that they cannot be blamed for anything," he said.

Anderlecht lawyer Luc Delen said the Belgian club was not prepared to negotiate a deal with Forest since it could not accept UEFA's decision "on attempted corruption or corruption."

Goemans said the summons by Forest managing director Phil Soar and 16 players had been issued against Anderlecht, Vanden Stock and Raymond De Decker, the club's official in charge of accompanying referees.

The club are claiming £1.5 million (\$2.5 million) and the players £200,000 each - plus interest.

Eager Taylor back at helm for first Test v. South Africa

MELBOURNE (AP) - Australian captain Mark Taylor returns to national duty in tomorrow's first Test against South Africa refreshed and ready for a tussle many believe will determine the world's best team.

Taylor was dropped from the Australian limited over team but is back at the helm for the Melbourne Cricket Ground match.

Australia rate themselves the best team in world cricket and earlier this year beat the tourists 2-1 in South Africa.

South Africa have since scored a series win in Pakistan, a rare occurrence.

Taylor said he felt revitalized after the enforced break.

"It's had a lot of positives for me," said Taylor of his

Premier league top three could widen gap

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United, Blackburn and Chelsea, the English premier league's three leading clubs, could put more daylight between themselves and the rest over the Christmas weekend.

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Money snag KO's Holyfield-Lewis bout

NEW YORK (AP) - Once again, an obstacle came between boxing and a unified heavyweight title.

Talks between HBO and Evander Holyfield, the WBA and IBF champion, broke off Tuesday morning because of a disagreement over the amount of money Holyfield would be guaranteed to fight WBC champ Lennox Lewis.

Holyfield wanted a guarantee of 1 million pay-per-view buys, and HBO was only willing to guarantee 650,000, plus all the profits above that mark, said Lou DiBella, the senior vice president for programming at Time Warner Sports, the pay-per-view arm of HBO.

Hopes for unification rose Monday when Lewis' promoter said a \$50 million deal was struck, and the fight was scheduled for April 25 in Las Vegas. But Holyfield and HBO, which has the exclusive rights to Lewis' fights, could not agree.

"We obviously had a great difference of opinion on what the appropriate guarantee for the fight was," DiBella said.

Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, wanted his client to be guaranteed at least as much money as he made for his fight against Michael Moore.

According to Nevada boxing records, Holyfield made \$20 million for the November fight.

The heavyweight title has not been unified since Riddick Bowe was stripped of the WBC title in 1992 for refusing to fight Lewis.

The **600,000** disabled Israeli people

THANK YOU

The Umbrella Organization of Associations for the Disabled in Israel salutes the Organization of Shoharim and Israeli Friends of the Israel Museum, the Kahanoff Foundation of Canada and Israel, the National Insurance Institution, the Israel Government Tourist Corporation and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel for their initiative, willingness and contribution to making the Israel Museum accessible for disabled people.

We hope that this important project will become a model for all public buildings in Israel.



THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE DISABLED IN ISRAEL

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